THE SECRET HISTORY OF White-Hall,

Wm FROM THE Carlile 1717

Restoration of *Charles* II.

Down to the

Abdication of the late K. *James*.

Writ at the *Request of a Noble Lord*, and conveyed to him in Letters, by—— late Secretary-Interpreter to the Marquess of *Louvois*, who by that means had the perusal of all the *Private Minutes* between *England* and *France* for many Years.

The Whole consisting of *Secret Memoirs*, which have hitherto lain conceal'd, as not being discoverable by any other Hand.

Publish'd from the Original Papers.

By *D. JONES*, Gent.

LONDON,
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THE PREFACE.

I Do not queſtion but the Reader will expect ſomewhat ſhould be premiſed, by way of Satisfaction, to ſuch Scruples as may be ſuggeſted in general, concerning the Authentickneſs of the enſuing Letters; *which, as I conceive, they are reducible to the following heads,* viz. *An Account of the Author, and the Means whereby he got his Intelligence; the Verity of the* Matters *related; the Nature of the Correſpondence; and what part the Methodizer has had in the Undertaking; ſo I ſhall endeavour to give as diſtinct and ſatisfactory a Solution of each Particular, as may reaſonably be expected from me, or the Circumſtance of the Things will juſtly admit of.*

First then for the Author, and his Intelligence: The first time he went over into France *was in the Year* 1675, *where he had not stay'd above a Year, but that the place of General Commis, or Clark of the Dispatches, and Particular Commis Interpreter to that great* French *Minister of State, the Marquess* de Louvois, *for the Affairs relating to our Three Kingdoms, falling vacant by the Death of one Mr.* Kilpatrick, *a* Scotchman's *Son, that same Imployment was conferred by him upon a* Frenchman, *a Favourite of his, named* Belou; *Who understanding no* English, *and therefore not being able to manage the Affair without an* English *Man, our Author was recommended to him for that service (as he hints in his first Letter) which yet you are to Note by the way, was not the first he writ from that Country, to that Noble Person he corresponded with, and to whom he was previously engaged to transmit all the Intelligence he could learn of the Proceedings of the* French *Court, before he entred upon the said Imployment, (but they being not very material, he took*

no

no care to reſerve the Tranſcripts by him) and continued to be Interpreter of the Engliſh *tongue till after the time of our Grand Revolution, when he came over into* England; *where his ſtay was not long, but that he was imployed by the ſame Noble Perſon to return into* France *again, where the dangerous part he was to Act may be better conceived than now expreſt, but concerning which you may hear more hereafter.*

Its no hard matter to imagine what Qualifications were neceſſary to recommend our Author to the Imployment afore noted, and how far his out-ſide muſt differ from his in-ſide during his abode there, which together with that part which he has Acted in that Kingdom, ſince his preſent Majeſty King William's *Acceſſion to the Throne, and that he knows not how ſoon he may ſtill be engaged to return (though he be at preſent in* London) *are Reaſons of themſelves, without ſuperadding any other, of the many that might be produced, more than ſufficient for the ſuppreſſion of his Name, and of my being engaged in the Work; which yet rather than Truth*

ſhould ſuffer, I am ſatisfied he will be as forward to render, as well known to the World, as 'tis to that Noble Perſon who has imployed him.

I am of Opinion, the Reader *will be much better perſwaded of the verity of the Facts, as well as much more pleaſed with the new Diſcoveries of State-Myſteries he will meet with here, by the peruſal of the Work himſelf, than by any thing I can pretend to ſay in the Defence of the one, or the Commendations of the other; And were it not to obviate a vulgar Error and Objection that I foreſee would be made upon this Subject,* That all that could be Writ has been written already, concerning the late Reigns, *I ſhould diſmiſs it; But now I am neceſſitated not to ſingle out, but promiſcuouſly to call to mind a few Heads (for to make an Enumeration of all the remarkable* Particulars *were to run through the Contents of every individual* Letter*) and to ask the* Objector, *where it is he meets with an exact Account of the* Private League *between King* Charles *the Second, and the* French

King

King; *The Duke of* York's *secret Correspondence with that Court*; Coleman's *interventicn with both for his own Advantage*; *The Interest the* French *made both in* England *and* Holland *among the several* Sects *and* Parties *of Men, to prevent the late Queen's being married to his present Majesty: The Methods concerted to Trapan her into* France *with her Father's concurrence, and how prevented*; *Father* St. Germain's *attempting King* Charles *the Second in his Religion, with the King's Answer*, &c. *His unseasonable boasting of it, the Occasion of his flight into* France, *and the Censure he underwent from those of his Order for it*; Coleman's *Wife's Petition to the* French *King, the Answer, and her destroying her self*; *Monsieur* le Tellier's *Speech about the* Invasion *of* England; *the Duke of* York *his pervertion to the Church of* Rome; *King* James *his* Private League *with* France, *when Regnant*; *the Essay made by* Don Ronquillo, *the* Spanish *Ambassador, to draw him into the* Austrian *Interest, with his Answer, and Refusal, in favour of* France; *How Father* Petre *came to be made a Privy*

Coun-

Councellor; wherefore Mr. Skelton *was impriſoned in the* Tower, &c. *which, to name no more, though the reſt are of equal curioſity, as they had, in all likelihood, been for ever buried in the profoundeſt Oblivion, had not the Fate and Addreſs of this Gentleman led him to fetch them out of the Dark, and almoſt inſcrutable Receſſes of the* French *Cabinet-minutes, ſo the* Reader *will find they carry ſo much Evidence of Truth with them, not only by the Connexion they have with many material Paſſages in Sir* William Temple's Memoirs, *Mr.* Coke's Detection of the Court and State of *England* during the Four laſt Reigns, *&c. but by ſo natural an unfolding of what is obſcurely, or but tranſiently hinted at by thoſe learned Authors, who could not ſee beyond their light; and yet ſo remote from thoſe Scurrulities, as well as Inconſiſtencies, to ſay no worſe, which occur in ſome other pieces of the ſame Reigns, that it were a Crime to make any farther Apology for them: Yet it may be noted by the way, that this ſame doth evince the neceſſity of this* Supplemental Part, *as well for the detecting of paſt Falſities, as for the*

per-

perfecting of paſt Diſcoveries: *And 'tis hoped no body will quarrel, that this* Piece *which is Entituled by the Name of a* Secret Hiſtory, *&c. ſhould be written in an* Epiſtolary *way, when it be conſidered that ſuch a* Form *was indiſpenſibly neceſſary under the Circumſtances of the* Author, *and his* Noble Correſpondent, *and that there is a very engaging part naturally couched under ſuch a method of bringing* State-Arcana's *to light, by way of* Letters, *which, in the very Notion of them carry ſomething of ſecrecy; Though after all, the* Reader *cannot but obſerve an Air of Hiſtory to run, in a manner, through the whole compoſition; but whether ariſing from the Mode of thoſe* Minutes *from whence our* Author *drew his* Intelligence, *or from his own natural* Genius, *or partly from both, is, I confeſs a Queſtion I never asked him, neither do I think the determination of it of any great conſideration.*

As to the nature and manner how this Correſpondence was managed, the Inquirer may take notice that the conveyance was not ſo difficult; For the Poſt, during

all

all the time these Letters were continued, was free between both Nations, though he is also to observe, that some of them occasionally for fear of interception were written in Cyphers, which I retain by me, as I do the rest of the Original Papers, for my own and the Worlds satisfaction: But for the method pursued by him, during the present Reign, It will then be time enough to give such hints thereof as in prudence shall be esteemed safe and necessary.

But though the Station this learned Gentleman was in, did, together with his own industry and curiosity, entitle him to the vast Discoveries made in these Letters; Yet the ticklishness of his Circumstances, and the fears of being surprized, together with a natural tendency that is in Mankind, to take notice of present rather than past Occurrencies, would not admit of a continued succession of writing Matters of Fact as they have fallen out in order of time; Which as it is a most convincing Reason of so many inverted and promiscuous Dates, so it has introduced the Methodizer: *First, under a necessity of frequently altering the*

prefatory

prefatory and concluſive parts of the Letters, *and then of making up ſome ſmall breaches, which under the fore-mentioned Circumſtances muſt neceſſarily happen, and which yet are grounded upon the moſt irrefragable* Authorities, *that there might be a connection between the ſeveral Parts, and the Hiſtory appear entire, and all of a piece. And it could not be thought ungrateful to our* Reader *to have the Contents inſerted before every* Letter, *with the Obſervation of the Tears, ſo far as was needful, when each Matter was tranſacted, whereof there neither was a neceſſity for the* Author *to obſerve to that* Noble Lord *to whom he was the* Intelligencer, *who is too great a Critick in Hiſtory to need it, unleſs it were upon ſome very ſpecial occaſions; neither indeed would the promiſcuous way of Writing, which the ſtinted Opportunities, he was under, forced to him, admit well of it; eſpecially when theſe Papers at the firſt taking of them were not deſigned to be made publick. Though his own Curioſity led him to keep* Copies *of whatever he writ that was material, then which nothing is more common with Perſons under the like Circumſtances; The*

many

many Letters *and* Memoirs *that have from time to time appeared in the World, being a convincing proof hereof; And without which Method it had been impossible to have transmitted to Posterity the thousandth part of what the World has been obliged with, in things of that kind.*

Its true there are some Letters *to be met with now and then in the course of this Correspondence, which, at first sight, may seem to be foreign, and have little or no relation to the main Subject; But besides that there are few or none without some sort of connexion, and do not in one degree or other interfere with the* British Affairs, *they are so much an imbellishment to those parts they fill up, as not to merit so severe a Censure, as to undergo the fate of being castrated.*

And here is a spacious field before me, were it adviseable, or any ways necessary, to descant upon the excellency and usefullness of these Discoveries which are wholly new; But I shall wave that, and only observe; That there is no one Party, *or sect of Men in* England, *much less*

leſs the Court exempted, but may draw very ſeaſonable Informations, *and no leſs timous* Inſtructions *herefrom, ſeeing they have all of them, in their reſpective turns, though many quite againſt their knowledge, been impoſed upon by* French Emiſſaries, *and made* Tools *of to ſerve the Intereſt of* France, *to the prejudice of themſelves, and of their own Country; And how far the ſame Emiſſaries, though under different ſhapes, according to time and occaſion, have prevailed to nouriſh and perpetuate thoſe* Inteſtine Feuds, *and* Cruel Animoſities *which they formerly ſowed amongſt us, during the preſent Reign, will in part, among other ſurprizing* Secrets, *be the ſubject matter of the next Volume, which will be continued down to the preſent year* 1696, *and which I could not forbear mentioning upon this occaſion, though it comes in by way of* Anticipation.

From my Houſe in
Clerkenwell,
Nov. 9th. 1696.

D. Jones.

From my Lodge in
Clerkenwell,
Nov. 9th. 1696.

D. Jones.

LETTER I.

Of the Author's being introduced to the Place of Interpreter of the English *Tongue*, &c.

My Lord,

I Am not so pleased with my Preferment of being made Interpreter for the *English* Affairs, to the Principal Commis or Clark of the Dispatches, under the Marquess *De Louvois*, to which Employment I have been lately admitted, as I am with the Thoughts of the Opportunity I shall have to serve your Lordship, with much better Intelligence than hitherto my Circumstances would admit of; most of my time, since my admission into the said Office, has been taken up in inspecting into Mr. *Kil-Patrick*'s Method, who was Predecessor to the Person to whom I am Interpreter, and I have under my Hands all his Papers and Minutes for near Twenty Years backward; whereby I do not question, but I may in time give your Honour much light into the Intrigues of the Ministers of State in this Kingdom, and the Maxims they have and do go upon, for the producing such Accidents and Revolutions in their Neighbour-

Nations, and especially in our Kingdoms, as may favour the Aspiring Endeavours of this Court towards an Universal Monarchy, and obviate all such cross Events as may fall out contrary to their Designs; I have seen some strange things already, in relation to our Country, Contrived and Agitated by them, but my Business requires so much Attendance from me at present, and the minuting out of any thing but what belongs to the Service of the Office, requires so much Circumspection and Privacy, that I durst not hitherto venture upon any such thing; but I hope a little time will put me into a freedom of Circumstance, that may in some measure be answerable to my readiness to serve you, and make appear how much I am,

Paris, Jan. 8. 1676. N. St.

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most

Humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER II.

Of the Oppoſition made by the French *Miniſters of State to K.* Charles II*d's Reſtoration, with their Anſwers to the Queen-Mother's Reſentments thereupon.*

My Lord,

ACcording to the Expectation I may have raiſed in your Lordſhip by my laſt, of ſome Notable Intelligence from me, I am to acquaint you with what perhaps you will hardly believe; that this Court, conſidering the near Alliance between the *Burbonian* and *Engliſh* Royal Family, ſhould as much as once think to obſtruct the King's Reſtauration to the Throne of his Anceſtors: but for my part, I clearly find there is neither Father, Brother, nor Couſin, between Kings and Kingdoms, and that *France* uſed the utmoſt of her Policy, at that time, to keep us Embroiled at Home, while ſhe might have her Hands looſe to play her Game Abroad; but becauſe I conceive it may not be ungrateful to your Lordſhip, to underſtand what thoſe Stratagems were, which they own themſelves to have practiſed upon that Occaſion, I ſhall briefly hint them unto you, as I find them entred here in their Cabinet-

Minutes; Monſieur *Bourdeaux* was then their Ordinary Embaſſador at *London*, whoſe Inſtructions were, both by himſelf and ſeveral other Emiſſaries which they had there, to raiſe all the Jealouſies imaginable in the ſeveral Factions of *Monk* and his Adherents, and at the ſame time to make Overtures to *Monk*, to aſſume *Oliver*'s Poſt and Power; urging with great vehemency, that he might with much more Juſtice and Security do it, as having (what the other had not) a Preſident before him; but tho' that General refuſed the Propoſal, and was proof againſt all their Attacks of that kind, ſaying, he would not ſplit his Family upon that Rock againſt which the *Cromwell*'s had daſht, but would wave all Ambitious Projects of his own Grandure, that were indirect, and purſue only thoſe that conſiſted with his Countreys good; and that they ſaw at laſt it was in vain to attempt the Union of the ſtronger Factions at Home, either againſt *Monk*, or the King's Reſtoration; they reſolved to try what might be done Abroad to work them into a Temper, and therefore to raiſe Jealouſies in them from their Neighbours, they did in *March* 1660. Deſile ſeveral Battalions of Foot towards *Calais*, giving out at the ſame time, that their Deſign was to Beſiege *Dunkirk* in Conjunction with the *Spaniſh* Forces; and that after the Place was taken by them, it was to be delivered up to the *Spaniards*;

purſuant

purſuant to an Agreement made between them, that the latter had conſented to give up *Cambray*, and ſome other Places, to the *French* in lieu of it; at which proceedings of theirs, the Queen-Mother then in *France* taking the Alarm, ſhe briskly remonſtrated unto them the unnatural part they acted, conſidering the near Ties of Blood in her Perſon between the Royal Families of *France* and *England*, and how diſhonourable it was to oppoſe the Reſtitution of a Prince, which they were bound to promote even by Arms, tho' he had been no ways Allied to them: but ſhe was anſwered, that there were many Reaſons of ſtate which ſuperceded all thoſe Scruples; that for her part, ſhe might be aſſured, ſhe ſhould be as well provided for as otherwiſe; that it was not ſafe for her Son to be brought in purely by his own Subjects; but that if they both would have a little patience, they did not queſtion but they had taken ſuch Methods ſo to embroil and weaken *England*, that there would be quickly room enough for the *French* King to bring him in, in a much more Glorious manner, ſo as that he might be Abſolute Maſter of his Subjects, and have his Royal Authority no more to depend upon the fickle and changeable Temper of a Perfidious Nation, nor be in danger to receive any check from Parliaments, that would ſooner or latter prove Factious and Dangerous to his State; that it

was visible the *Spaniards* had a great hand in promoting such a Revolution in *England*, and therefore they desired her to consider how dishonourable it would be to the House of *Bourbon* to suffer it; and how dangerous such a Conjunction of *England* and *Spain* (which would naturally follow) against them would be, she her self might judge; and that therefore since a little patience would Infallibly retrieve the whole Game to their Interest, and much more to her Satisfaction, they could do no less than pursue the Methods they had taken, and make both her and her Son happy, tho' it were against their Wills; that she was much in the wrong to judge of Things by present Appearances, that they were assured, however Matters might be concealed from her, the Conditions proposed to the King her Son by his Subjects, were little to her Satisfaction, when they imported no less, than that her two younger Sons (of the Elder of whom she had conceived greatest Hopes) and her self, must never set footing on *English* Ground, and that the King himself must Marry a Protestant Heretick, and suffer no *Roman Catholick* to live in his Dominions. But when they found all their Politicks had failed them, and that the King was restored in spight of them, according to his Hearts Content, they afterwards fell upon other Stratagems, put in due time in Execution to work upon his

Easie

Easie Nature, and to render his Power more serviceable than hurtful to their Designs, tho' the King, (who was yet sensible of the Injuries done him) upon his Arrival in *England* ordered *Bourdeux* to withdraw out of his Dominions; this is the substance of what I find entred here, in reference to this particular, and all I have now to Communicate, which, if I find it relish with your Lordship, I shall not fail to lay hold of all Occasions to demonstrate how much I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Feb. 19. 1676. N. St.

Your Lordship's most Humble, &c.

LETTER III.

Of several Matches proposed to King Charles *the Second, by the* French *Court, with his Answers and Rejection of the same.*

My Lord,

IT's not unknown to your Lordship, that one Topick in the *French* Politicks has been now for many Years, to bring their Neighbour Princes into their Interests, by procuring them Wives; and the *French* Wo-

men have had an Excellent Faculty to bring over their Husbands into the *Gallican Nooſe*, tho' apparently to the hazard of themſelves, and their own State; ſo that quite failing in their end to obſtruct the King's Reſtoration, they now attempted to Entrap him with a Wife; I underſtand there were ſeveral *French* Matches propoſed to him during his Exile, and among others a great Lady, whoſe Name I cannot now remember, who had like to have been afterward Married to the Prince of *Conde*, and whom the King hotly Courted when in *France*; but becauſe he was refuſed by her then, he in his turn refuſed her when Reſtored; tho' in reality ſuch a proffer on their part, was no more than to ſound his Diſpoſition towards Marrying a *French* Woman in general; for if he had conſented to have taken this Lady to Wife, the *French* Court would not have ſuffered it, becauſe ſhe was a Martial Lady, and of the contrary Faction to them at *Paris*: A ſecond was their then Madamoiſell *D' Orleans*, the *French* King's Aunt, which Match agreed very well both with her and King *Charles*'s Inclination; and the King ſeemed forward to preſs it; but it was not ſo with the *French* Court, who by their Artifices put it by, as remembring likewiſe her Martial Temper, and what ſhe had done, when with her own Hands ſhe had fired off the Guns of the *Baſtile* againſt the King's Party in the Wars of *Paris*, and

how

how hotly she abetted the Party that stood up against the King's Legitimacy; for they looked upon her still with a Jealous Eye, as thinking her yet full of Resentment, and that she would put our King in a Martial Mood, cause him to renew the Old Pretensions to *France*, and to abet the Princes that might have been disposed to renew the Dispute of the *French* King's Illegitimacy, and to advance their own Title to that Crown; or at least-wise, that she would put King *Charles* upon thwarting in all things, whatever might promote the Grandure of *Lewis* XIVth. Nay, so great was their Fear of that Ladies Issue, by any Person whatsoever, that after they had Treacherously sham'd her into a Clandestine Match with the Count *D' Lauzun*, to hinder her Matching with any greater Person; they likewise took Care she should have no Issue, even by him, by keeping of him in Prison, and never suffering them to come together again till they were both past Children: The third Person I find proposed, and that in Earnest, was Cardinal *Mazarine*'s Niece *Hortensia*, a Match of which the *French* Court were very fond, and such as was every way agreeable to their *Gusto*: the Cardinal, besides many other Sophistical Addresses to bring the Business to bear, got the Hook baited with the Appearance of a great Stock of Beauty, besides the tender of a vast Sum of Money to boot:

He

He took Care alſo to have it rumoured abroad, that ſuch a Match was not only in agitation, but in a fair way to be accompliſhed, all which 'twas believed might have done the Feat, but that it having been unluckily rumoured abroad, that ſhe had paid her firſt Fruits already to the *French* King, K. *C.* ſaid, *He would not be content with her upon the ſecond hand:* However it were, the Reaſons tranſmitted to the *French* Court, why ſuch an Advantageous Offer was rejected by our King, were,

1. Becauſe her Unkle had ſo ungenerouſly oppoſed his Reſtoration, and uſed him ſo Contemptuouſly at the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*,

2. Becauſe that Alliance could be of no Advantage to him, but by a little preſent Money, and would beſides raiſe Jealouſies in his People againſt him, for which the Day was yet too early; ſo that ſeeing they found they could put no *French* Lady upon him, they reſolved to promote the Match with *Portugal*, whereby, they were ſure, the King would have no Iſſue: But that was not all, for by this means, they were in hopes to render him deſtitute of any Powerful Forreign Ally; and that the Duke of *York* being already Married to Chancellor *Hide*'s Daughter, and in Proſpect of a fair Iſſue, both them Matches might together lay a Foundation

tion for New Diſcontents, weaken the Union between King and People, and put the Younger Brother upon Aſpiring Thoughts, in Prejudice to the Elder. But becauſe the foreſaid Match with *Portugal* might not be thought to be of their Contrivance, and for ſome ſelf-ends, they put this piece of drudgery upon the Queen-Mother, whom they managed ſo as to give her aſſured Hopes, her ſecond Son, who was her Darling, would by that means one Day aſcend the *Engliſh* Throne, and what might not ſhe and all of them hope from him, who had ever been much more open in Profeſſion of, and Zealous for the *Roman* Religion? *&c.* But great Care was taken to give it out betimes, that this Journey of the Queen was only a Viſit to her Son, now a King *de facto*, and in all Royal State, and that ſhe deſigned quickly to return and ſpend the remainder of her Days in *France*, her Native Country; and at the ſame time how highly ſhe was offended at her other Son, the Duke of *York*'s Marriage with the Chancellor's Daughter, which about that Conjuncture came to be publickly known, and by whom he had now a Child Born; but whether ſhe had any Inſtructions upon this Journey to break the Ice, and make Overtures to her Son about the Sale of *Dunkirk*, I could never learn, and our Minutes are in a profound ſilence concerning it; however I ſhall in my next give you all the Inti-

Intimations that ever came within the verge of my Knowledge upon this Head, and in the mean time, am,

My Lord,

Paris, *Feb.* 25.
1676. N. St.

Your Lordſhips moſt

Humble Servant.

LETTER IV.

Of the Sale of Dunkirk *to the* French, *and by what* Methods *effected.*

My Lord,

THat Cardinal *Richlieu* had long before laid a Foundation for the *French* greatneſs, and even to nouriſh Thoughts of *France*'s attaining in Time the univerſal Monarchy, is notoriouſly known to all that are converſant in the Hiſtories of his Time; and that Cardinal *Mazarine*, who ſucceeded him as Primier Miniſter of State, purſued his Steps, and made conſiderable Advances in the Deſign before he Dyed, which was about the Time of the Negotiation for the Sale of *Dunkirk*, is no leſs manifeſt; and that the Methods both the one and the other purſued, was to ſet their Engines on work conti-

continually to embroil their Neighbours, either in Inteſtine Jarrs, or in an open Invaſion of one anothers Territories, and then to invite themſelves in to aſſiſt the weaker, that they might run away with the Prey from both; but among all their Neighbour Nations, the *Engliſh* were thoſe they moſt dreaded, both out of Fear and Emulation of their Military Strength and Glory, and whom conſequently they made their utmoſt Efforts to entangle in Civil Diſcords; and therefore it was that *Richlieu* took Advantage of the unhappy Conjuncture in the firſt ſowing the Seeds of Diſcontent between King *Charles* I. and his Parliaments: And then by his Incendiaries kindled ſuch a flame in the Three Kingdoms, as terminated not only in the Deſtruction of the King, but even of the Monarchy it ſelf; ſo that the Nation after having undergone a Succeſſion of almoſt all the Forms of Government, that have been in uſe among the Sons of Men, run at laſt into the very Dregs of all Government, even Anarchy it ſelf; which *Mazarine* did as ſtrenuouſly endeavour to keep up amongſt us, as his Predeceſſor *Richlieu* had been forward to run us upon thoſe dangerous Precipices that introduced it; but when after all, the *French* Efforts to prevent our return to our Old and known Form again, by the Kings Reſtoration had failed; it ſtruck no ſmall damp upon the *French* Politicians, to ſee the *Babel* they had

been

been ſo long Erecting, and were now in a fair way to have laid on the Top-ſtone, in danger to be overthrown at one Clap, and to have all their Hopes daſhed to pieces; and therefore they ſtood ſtill for a Time to ſee what ſo mighty a Revolution in *England* might produce, and what mighty things a King in the Vigour of his Years (whom they had ſufficiently provoked during his Exile) ſo high in the Love of his Subjects, the ancient Emulators of the *French*, and the People now in the moſt Martial Poſture that ever they were in ſince *England* was a Nation, would undertake; but finding all were *Halcyon Days*, and that then there was no apparent Diſpoſition in our Court to make any Incroachment on their Neighbours; the *French* Miniſters began to re-aſſume freſh Hopes, and to conſider what Expedients might be proper for to promote their Deſigns, which now for ſome time had lain Dormant; one Project was that of the Match mentioned by me to your Lordſhip in my Laſt, which ſucceeding ſo well, and finding ſtill that the King was far enough from deſigning any War for the enlargment of his Territories, they reſolved to make an Eſſay, and ſee whether he was willing to part with any thing that was already his own.

I do ſuppoſe your Lordſhip may have heard of Cardinal *de Retz* being in diſgrace at the *French* Court, of his being forced to flee

flee the Kingdom, of his being at *London incognito* some time after the Restoration; what he was publickly accused for in *France*, was that he had favoured the Adverse Party about the Point of the Legitimacy, that he had invited Madamoiſell *d' Orleans* to aspire to a Match with our King, and Abetted the Pretensions of *Rome* against those of the Court, about the then growing Difficulties concerning the *Regale*; but what ever the Reasons were, they were never Publiſhed, nor suffered to be so much as entred in the Minutes of other Secrets; but this is certain, that our King interceded with the *French* King on his behalf, and that he was admitted to return, and I have been assured, it was by the way of *Dunkirk*, and was sent afterward Embassador to *Rome*; but whether all this was a Jugle, to carry on a Negotiation about *Dunkirk*, I will not positively affirm; but it looks as much like a *French* Trick, as one Egg does another.

That the *Spaniards* prest our King very early for the Restitution of *Dunkirk*, is uncontroulably true, and made pretty large offers, and it is as true that the King rejected their Proposals, which yet did not discourage the *French* Emissaries, of whom they had by this Time many in *England*, as the Minutes shew, who having ingratiated themselves with the Chancellor, and other hungry Courtiers made also their Overtures; and told

told the King withal, that *Cromwel* was to have that Town only for a Temporary Caution, for ſo much Money due to him for his Aſſiſtance againſt the *Spaniards*, and that therefore it was a Matter of Right they inſiſted upon, ſeeing they were now ready to lay down the Summ, with more then Intereſt, nay, and they were ſo bold as to tell him farther, that if he refuſed to give it for Money, they would endeavour to recover the ſame by a War, and queſtioned not the Junction of the *Hollanders* with them, both by Sea and Land in that Caſe; they being as unwilling as the *French*, that the *Engliſh* ſhould have footing ſo near them on the Continent, and in effect they made uſe of the *Dutch* Faction, and ſome *Jews* their Emiſſaries in *England*, more then any Body elſe to bring that Affair about; and becauſe they would be ſure to meet with no Obſtructions from the *Spaniards*, by renewing their Inſtances to the King, and alleadging a greater right to the Town then the *French*, they amuſed them with a Deſign they had to reſtore it to them again, upon a reaſonable equivalent in *Flanders*, and gave it out that they had entred into a Treaty already with them upon that Head; but whether it was ſo in Reality I cannot tell, and this is all that I am able to inform your Lordſhip concerning our parting with that Important Place; Only that the ſumm paid for it

was

was two Millions, and five hundred thousand Livres, and so I remain

My Lord,

Paris, March 4. 1676. N. St. *Your Lordships most Humble Servant.*

LETTER V.

Overtures made to King Charles II. *for the Sale of* Tangier *to the* French, *and how prevented.*

My Lord,

THE *French* having (as I have given your Lordship an Account in my Last) gained their Point in the buying of *Dunkirk*, whereof the *French* Forces took Possession about *October* in the Year, 1662. they paused a little to see how the *English* would resent it before they would make any further Paces for the Promotion of their Cause to our Disadvantage; but finding the Memory of the Anarchical Times, together with the Nation's, according the Example of the Court, daily degenerating from the Severity of Manners in Former Times, had in a manner laid them fast asleep, and quite obliterated

ted all Thoughts of Military Glory, ſo far as if there had been a ſudden Tranſmutation of the *Genius* of the People, they reſolved to make another Eſſay upon the eaſie temper of the King, and try whether he would alſo part with *Tangier* unto them; but whether it were that the King was ſenſible already of his Miſtake in parting with *Dunkirk*, or that this very Motion of theirs put him upon conſidering what he had done, and the great Error he had committed in Policy thereby, it is certain he gave them an abſolute Denial; and that their Minutes ſpeak, but ſay withal that to be revenged of his Denial, and make him odious after their uſual Manner; this Court ordered it however to be reported as if he had been willing for it; and further add, that the Kings real Anſwer was, that *Tangier* being his Queens Dowry, to whom he had not long been Married; it would not at all ſuit with his Honour to ſell it, neither could he well part with it, unleſs he parted with Her; that it was by Parliament annext to the Imperial Crown of *England*, and ſo could not be Sold without them; that if both He and his Parliament too might be willing to ſell it at another Time; yet to be ſure, it was not proper to think of it juſt then, when after ſo much Treaſure and Blood ſpent upon it already, it might if ever, prove of ſome uſe to the Nation, in the War then like to begin

gin with the *Dutch*: that he could not part with it to the *French* King ſo well as to any other Chriſtian Prince, nay not ſo well as even to the *Moors* themſelves, without giving a very juſt and therefore a dangerous Cauſe of Jealouſie to his People, eſpecially in that Juncture, when by the Carriage of the *French* he had great Cauſe to ſuſpect, they were Jealous of his grandeur at Sea; and would joyn with the *Dutch* againſt him: which refuſal of his, I muſt tell your Lordſhip, was indeed one of the ſecret Cauſes among others why they ſoon after actually joyned with that Nation, to diminiſh our Power, to ſham them, and weaken and undermine us both, as well as to hatch up a Navy of their own; and ſince I am entred upon this Subject; your Lordſhip will pardon me, if I proceed a little further, and acquaint you; that they did afterwards renew their Inſtances about the Sale of the ſaid Place, with much more earneſtneſs then before, and that at a Time when their Intereſt was much ſtronger, and more prevalent at our Court; and yet even then, tho' the Parliament had denied him the ſupplies which he demanded extraordinary, as your Lordſhip well knows, to be appropriated for the maintenance of *Tangier*, and that he was in great ſtreights for Money, he would not ſell it to the *French*, nor reſtore it to *Portugal*; but choſe rather to demoliſh it, and abandon it to

the *Moors*; why he would not ſell it to the *French*, I have already given the Reaſons, but there was perhaps another more prevalent Argument for it; *viz.* the ſtrong Vote of the Houſe of Commons to that Purpoſe, which your Lordſhip knows better then I can pretend to inform you; to which perhaps I may ſubjoyn another in due place, and therefore now can only ſubſcribe my ſelf

My Lord,

Paris, Octob. 24. 1684. N. St.

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER VI.

Of the firſt Dutch *War, begun in* 1664.

My Lord,

I Have no Reaſon to doubt, but your Lordſhip knows moſt of the Particulars relating to that unhappy War begun between *England* and *Holland* in the Year, 1665. but it may, it will not be unpleaſing to recount what the *French* deſigns might be in it, how they promoted it, and what Advantages they drew from it; which I ſhall do very briefly

briefly; when they found our King did not lay hold of those Advantages put into his Hands upon his Restoration to render himself great at home and formidable abroad, and made not the least meen of a Martial, Designing and Ambitious Humour, they made it their first business by their Instrumen's at our Court, to hinder his closing with *Spain*, or any other in the Interest of the House of *Austria*, by making up the *Portugal* Match, as I have already hinted to your Lordship; next by gaining the Duke of *York* timely over to their Devotion, and then by other Emissaries and Pentioners, whereof they had good store, both in *England* and *Holland*, to stir up such Disputes between the two Nations as might end in a War, and so divert the first Essays of the Power of our new Monarch from themselves: In this how admirably they succeeded, is well known, the *Dutch* on the one side being secretly incited and encouraged to Insolencies and Encroachments, and the *English* to as deep Resentments; insomuch that a War was hotly urged against them by our Parliament it self; the *French* Court in the mean time playing Bopeep with them both; for it does manifestly appear by the hints that I have seen, that they promised Succour to both Parties in Case of a Rupture, though it were really resolved to see us fight first, and then succour the weakest, and so

kill two Birds with one Stone, that is, divert and weaken both our Naval Forces, and make uſe of one of us to increaſe their own Naval Strength, till which War was very inconſiderable; which they moſt effectually did, for they no ſooner ſaw the Ballance incline to our ſide by the firſt great defeat given the *Hollanders* in that War, but contrary to all the Aſſurances before given to the King, they not only ſided with the Enemy; but drew the *Dane* too into their Confederacy, tho' they never did either of hem any good by fighting for them at Sea, but only by bribing one at that Time in the higheſt Favour in our Court; I need not Name him, got a part of our Fleet, ſent on a blind Errand after theirs, where 'twas ſure not to be found, while the *Dutch* and the reſt of our Ships and Commanders, were left to batter one another to pieces to make them ſport; having gained their Ends in this Point, they proceeded and gained alſo another of yet more dangerous Conſequence, and that was to get the unthinking *Hogens* to build them moſt of the beſt Ships, they now poſſeſs, and with which they have ſince ſcourged the *Dutch* both before *Palermo* and otherParts,and with which they have pretended ſince to Match either them or us; this appears, my Lord, by the Minutes of the Liſts we have of their Navy, whereof ſome Copies were Printed,but at preſent I cannot help your

your Lordſhip to one; but therein were expreſt the Dates and Places of the building of every Ship, whereof of near an 160 Men of War of all ſorts, near an 100 of them were built in the Ports of *Holland*, in the Time of the ſaid War; during which Time alſo they bought ſuch quantities of Gun-powder, Salt-Petre, and all ſorts of Warlike materials there, as ſo ſtrengthned them, and exhauſted the other, who ne'er dreamt they intended in a little Time to carry the War to them, that it much facilitated the ſucceſs they had afterward in Invading that Country, that War ended with all the ſucceſs to their Deſigns they could deſire, both by the Treacherous Compliance of Corrupt Miniſters, they had gained in both Nations, and the Diſcouragement the *Engliſh* had received, by the perfidious falling off of the Biſhop of *Munſter* from us, Junction of the *Dane* againſt us, and the *Chatham* diſaſter in having our Ships burnt there; which they effected by procuring the Queen-Mother to write a Letter to her Son, that ſhe was aſſured the *Dutch* would have no Fleet out that Summer; I need not remonſtrate to your Lordſhip our ill Conduct herein, I am ſure our Enemies have both blamed and ridiculed us ſufficiently for it, though it tended ſo manifeſtly to their Advantage, and was a Pig of their own Sow; and let me tell your Lordſhip, they did never believe our

King would ſo eaſily take the bait till they ſaw the blow ſtruck; and this, I can aſſure your Lordſhip, ſo heightned their Hopes, and whetted them in the purſuit of their Ends upon our Court and Kingdom, that they almoſt never left any Motion, they had made for their turn, till it were Effected as much to their plenary Satisfaction, as to the Kings Diſhonour and the Nations Ruine; and from hence forward you ſhall find them drive on their Deſigns upon us *Jehu*-like; the Particulars whereof I ſhall not fail to tranſmit to your Lordſhip, as often as I can have acceſs to take them out with out Suſpition from the Minutes, where they are Depoſited, and ſhall therefore now only ſubſcribe my ſelf, as I am in all ſincere Devotion,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble Servant.

Paris, March 29. 1676. N. St.

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LETTER VII.

Of the Firing of the City of London, *in* 1666.

My Lord,

I Am fully ſatisfied by what I have both ſeen and heard at *Paris* and elſewhere, that the Duke of *York* was in the Year 1666. brought quite over to the *French* Intereſt; and I have heard ſtrange Stories related concerning his Conduct at the Time of that dreadful Conflagration of the City, looking upon it *Janus*-like, with one Face ſeeming concerned for the lamentable Diſaſter, and with the other rejoycing to ſee that noble Pile reduced to Aſhes, and its Citizens ruined; who had at all Times been the greateſt Propugnators for Liberty and Property, and oppoſers of that Religion which he now not only ſecretly profeſt, but was even ready publickly to own; and rewarding thoſe Incendiaries at St. *James*, who then were ſuſpected generally to be *French* Men, as your Lordſhip well may remember; but by our Minutes it does appear they were not ſuch; but they were Perſons, at leaſt many of them, ſet on Work by *French* Councils, and ſuch as at that Time were of all Men leaſt ſuſpected;

I mean *Jews*, of which they had then ſeveral in pay, not only in *England*, but all over *Chriſtendom*; not only to give them Intelligence in which they are wondrous Active, but likewiſe to promote and act the worſe of miſchiefs, as which they make no baulk. By theſe Fires have been kindled, not only in *England*, but in *Germany*, *Poland* and elſewhere, which the *Germans* imputed to *Turkiſh* Emiſſaries, though they were *Jews* hired with *French* Money, the *Turkiſh* Policy not being ſo refined in Miſchief; theſe ſorts of *Jews* put on the ſhape of what Chriſtians they pleaſed, and of this ſort imploy'd by *France*, there were and are ſtill ſeveral in *England*, the Names of one or two of which I think I ſhall be able to give your Lordſhip in ſometime, though they go by ſeveral, as Time and Occaſion doth require, and ſo at preſent I remain

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble Servant.

Paris, April 7. 1676. N. St.

LETTER

LETTER VIII.

Of the French *Irruption into* Flanders *in the* Year, 1667.

My Lord,

THe *Dutch* War, I have in a former Letter mentioned to your Lordſhip, being ended, by the Treaty at *Breda*, *July* 9th. 1667. the *French* gained all the Ends they propoſed by it; and more particularly (as to what I have before hinted) that both our King and People were now glad to be quiet, that ſome Diſreputation was thereby caſt in our Nation, but more on the King and Government, which began to ingender new Diſcontents and Factions amongſt us, which they took care to foment, that they might make uſe of them afterward, and that they having lately obliged the *Dutch*, thought now they might venture to extend their Limits in *Flanders*, and try what Fortune their Monarch would have againſt *Spain*, being his firſt undertaking, ſince he took upon him the Management of Affairs after *Mazarines* Death, wherefore new Pretenſions were advanced for the Queen of *France*; which though moſt learnedly and more then ſufficiently anſwered by that renown-

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ed Stateſman the Baron *d' Iſola* in his Treatiſe, called, *The Buckler of State and Juſtice*, and which I think I have ſeen in your Lordſhips Cloſet, yet it put no ſtop to the *French* Carreer, but on they carried the War, and that with ſuch rapid Succeſs, that they not only ravaged *Artois*, *Hainault* and other Parts of the *Netherlands* in a ſhort time, but alſo took *Charleroy*, *Oudenard*, *Aeth*, *Courtray* and *Liſle*, beſides what was done by them in the *Franch Courty* and *Burgundy*; but your Lordſhip is ſo well verſed in things of this kind, that I ſhall forbear further to trouble you, and ſhall only tell you, that after the *Spaniard* had ſuffered great loſs, and that the *Dutch* being both obliged by Treaty, and alarmed at the too near Encroachment of ſo Potent a Neighbour, aſſiſted the *Spaniard* with ſome Forces, which the Monſieur well obſerved, but for the Time diſſembled it, though he reſolved both to remember and make uſe of it, when opportunity was put into his Hands, one way or other to his Advantage; the Intervention of the Tripple League did for the preſent put a Hook in his Noſe, and ſo he claps up a Peace with the *Spaniard*, in 1668. with a Deſign to break it as ſoon as ever his Hands were let looſe; and ſo I ſhall conclude this Letter with my humble Thanks to your Lordſhip for my laſt

re ——

re——: And hope I ſhall in my next be able to impart ſomewhat that will be more entertaining, till when I ſhall and ever will be ready

My Lord,

Paris, April 11. 1676. N. St. *To ſerve and Honour you,*

LETTER IX.

The Dutch *allarm'd at the* French *King's Irruption into* Flanders, *ſent a Letter to King* Charles II. *about it, a Copy of which Letter was tranſmitted to the* French *Court.*

My Lord,

IF the *Dutch* underhand aſſiſting the *Spaniard*, as I have mentioned in my laſt, ſet the *French* King upon Thoughts of Revenge, a peruſal of the Contents of the States Letter to our King upon the account of his Encroachments, whetted his Fury to an high Degree; but all was ſmothered for the preſent, there being many rubs that lay in his way that muſt firſt be removed; what the Con-

Contents of the ſaid Letter was, may be eaſily gueſſed at, but the ſight of any true Copy of it I could ne're get; the general rumour concerning it was, that our King ſhould ſend it as ſoon as he had read it to the *French* King; but the Minutes ſay, it was only a Copy of it, that was tranſmitted into *France*, and that not by the King but that it was Surreptitiouſly gotten from the Secretaries-Office and ſent to that Court; but that however they ordered their private Agents both in *Holland* and *England*, to report that our King ſent it, that they might provoke the *Hollanders* to uſe ſuch Carriage towards him, as might diſpoſe him to join with the *French* in a new War againſt them; which they had a Deſign to put him upon in revenge of that Letter, and of the Succours the *Dutch* had ſent the *Spaniards*, though no more then they were obliged to do defenſively, purſuant to the Tenour of their Peace with *Spain*; of which War with the Preliminaries tending to it, I ſhall not fail to tranſmit your Lordſhip an account — and ſuch in many particulars, as I do not Queſtion, but will be very grateful to your Lordſhip,

Whoſe,

Paris, April 18. 1676. N. St.

Humble Servant

I am.

LET-

LETTER X.

A View of the State of the Reformed in France, *from the beginning of* Lewis *the Fourteenth's Reign, to the Year* 1669.

My Lord,

THE Reformed in the Kingdom of *France*, ſince the King came himſelf to the Adminiſtration of the Government, had rather been retrench'd in their Liberties, and declined in Power than otherwiſe, whereas while *Mazarine* was Miniſter of State, he (notwithſtanding the Queen Mother's virulancy againſt them; whether it were to Cajole *Cromwell* and their then Governing Powers in *England*, or out of his avertion to the Clergy in general, of whoſe Abilities as well as Honeſty he had no great Opinion) things went tolerably well with them; but now that the *French* King found himſelf couped up with the *Triple League*, and conſidering that any rigorous Procedures againſt the Proteſtants in his own Dominions, would at this time be interpreted much to his diſadvantage by thoſe of other Nations, and particularly, that there was no hopes to break the ſaid League, or to diſunite it, eſpecially the King

of

of *England*, of whom he conceived the greateſt hopes, and had the greateſt Eye upon, as being not only neareſt, but alſo moſt powerful of any of the reſt; it was reſolved to put forth an ample Declaration in Favour of the *Reformed*, which revoked ſeveral unjuſt Judgments given againſt them, and remedied many Important Difficulties and Severities they laboured under, whereof they had made their Complaints to the King, and which gave them hopes that they ſhould for the future be left to live in Tranquillity and Peace. They knew well enough, unleſs this were done, there was no very great likelihood to bring our King to their Bow; of whom the Parliament had already entertained ſome Jealouſies, and who would not fail to be enraged, when they came to underſtand he had entred into an Alliance with a King, who gave way to the Oppreſſion of his Proteſtant Subjects: but this ſpecious pretence of the *French* Indulgence, might ſerve him very well to amuſe his Parliament, and at the ſame time to deceive himſelf; and the Proteſtant Nations in general without, might very well believe the *French* proceedings herein, and eſpecially that part of it which related to the Reformed's future Tranquillity, were real; when they themſelves in *France* were fully perſwaded of it, and imagined that the Days of *Henry* IVth, were returned upon them again. It's certain

tain there had been considerable Efforts made, since our King's entring into the aforementioned Tripple Alliance, to have it further strengthned by the Accession of other Protestant Confederates into it; and that there was a certain Person whose Name was *Marcilli*, a *Rochelier* Born, and a Professor of the Reformed Religion, that took indefatigable pains in it; the true Story of this Man is very odd, and falling pat with the Design of this Letter, I shall give as concise an Account of it as I can, not doubting of your Lordship's kind Acceptance; this Person, I say, taking the Advantage of the Conjuncture of the League between *England* and *Holland*, and very much doubting of the sincerity of the Declaration made in Favour of the Reformed in *France* thereupon, made his Application to several Protestant Princes about entring into the said Alliance, and was no small Instrument to induce the King of *Swedeland* to come into it, which gave occasion of its being called the Tripple League. He had been also at our Court, and opened the King's Eyes, in relation to many things that had been misrepresented to him, and wherein he had been imposed upon, either by the *French* Agents, or the falsity of his own Ministers of State; but these Addresses of *Marcilli* were not long concealed from the *French* Court, wherefore they took Council, and dispatcht away the Marques

Marqueſs *De Ruvigni* into *England*, with Inſtructions to take off thoſe Umbrages our King had taken, upon the Conduct of the *French* Council towards him; the Marqueſs his Religion, being a Proteſtant, as well as his Capacity, recommended him as the fitteſt Perſon to aſſure the King of the ſincerity of the *French* proceedings, and that the Reformed ſhould have all the Juſtice in the World done them; in ſhort, the Marqueſs did his Buſineſs ſo effectually at our Court, that tho' he were the Reformed's Deputy-General, he had almoſt Bankrupt his Credit with all the Churches, who did not a little reſent his Complaiſance upon that Head. *Marcilli* having done, as he thought, his Buſineſs in *England*, was gone upon the ſame Negotiation to the *Swiſs* Cantons, not without Directions, as 'twas believed in *France*, tho' diſſembled for a time, from our King, to induce the *Swiſs* to come into the Alliance; whereof when *Ruvigni* had advertized the *French* Court, the King gave Mareſchal *Turenne*, who yet made Profeſſion of the Proteſtant Religion, Orders to Seize him, if poſſible, and Kidnap him back into *France*; the Mareſchal to diſguiſe the Matter as much as might be, and to give as little umbrage of any ſuch Deſign as was poſſible, pitcht upon Three Officers making Profeſſion of the ſame Religion with himſelf, to go into *Switzerland* to Seize him; the

ſameneſs of Religion between *Marcilli* and them, gave them eaſie familiarity with him; ſo that at laſt having got him into a place where he could not be reſcued, they hurried him into *France*, where he was Tryed forthwith and Condemned; the Man during his Impriſonment, ſhewed all the Conſtancy both of a Brave and Innocent Mind, and all the Application of the Judges, and Rigour of the Queſtions put unto him, could never make him change his Language, but he maintained his Innocence to the laſt, and the Secrets he had been entruſted with by a great Prince, whom I have heard ſome of his very Enemies blame for not interpoſing in his behalf, or afterward reſenting of it at all, when there were ſome things put to him in relation to that Princes Perſon, that little ſuited with his Honour; even upon the publick place of Execution, juſt as the poor Man was broken upon the Wheel; and now, my Lord, they had Murdered his Body, they went about alſo to Murder his Fame, by giving out that they were forced to expedite his Execution, becauſe that having found a piece of Glaſs in the Priſon, he cut off his Privy Parts therewith, as thinking he might quickly bleed to Death, and ſo be his own Executioner; which notwithſtanding being ſoon obſerved by the Goaler, he gave the Officers notice thereof, who put him to Death Two Hours after. And that

France might ſeem to be ſincere at all Points in reſpect to the Liberty of her Reformed Subjects, out came another Declaration in *Auguſt* 1669, inviting all of them that Sojourned abroad, or were in the Service of Forreigners, back into their Native Country, and particularly out of the *United Provinces*, where there were of them great numbers, as Officers, Soldiers, Merchants, Seamen, &c. but tho they were thus liberal in their Promiſes to the Reformed, and made all the ſemblance of Sincerity in the World hereupon, yet they never ceaſed underhand to tempt the moſt Conſiderable Perſons amongſt them, by large Donatives and Hopes of Preferment to come over to the Church of *Rome*, and what Succeſs they had therein will be the ſubject of another Letter; and ſo I am,

Paris, *May* 23. 1676. N. St.

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt

Humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER XI.

Of the Perversion of the Prince of Tarent, *Mareschal* Turenne, *&c. to the Romish Religion, about the Year* 1669.

My Lord,

FRance, as I have informed your Lordship in my last, having invited her Subjects of the Reformed Religion home out of all quarters, the Prince of *Tarent*, who had been settled several Years in the *United Provinces*, and possest of great Employments, quitted their Service thereupon, and returned to his Native Country, where he had not been long arrived, but he was Charmed into the Popish Religion, and all his Children, (saving one Daughter, afterward Married to the Prince of *Oldenburg*) following his Example; This they looked upon as a good step, but what gave them a mighty accession of strength, as much as it was a diminution of the Power of the Reformed, was their gaining of Mareschal *Turenne* to their Church, who, because so considerable a Person, and so famed for a great Captain, I shall recount unto your Lordship all that ever I could learn in relation to him upon this account. It's true, the Mareschal never did appear

to be a Perſon very Zealous for his Religion; but as he had from time to time given ſome Proofs of his Conſtancy, it was attributed to the Coldneſs of his Temper, which made him Calm enough in all things; but that Conſtancy that appear'd in him for a time, was attributed afterwards to other Cauſes, and primarily to the aſcendency his Wife and Siſters had over him, his Lady being Daughter to the Duke *De la Force*, and a Perſon of Exemplary Piety, keeping of him ſteady in his Profeſſion whilſt ſhe lived, and his Eldeſt Siſter the Marchioneſs *De Duras*, always encouraging of him to be conſtant; and ſo Zealous ſhe was, that ſhe began to breed up one of her younger Sons, with a Deſign to make him a Miniſter; but that Deſign not ſucceeding, & that Perſon going over very Young into *Engl.* has been ſince, as your Lordſhip well knows, advanced to Honour in the Kingdom. The youngeſt Siſter the Dutcheſs of *Trimouill* never failed alſo of her Duty towards the Mareſchal in that kind. That the Marſhal had been often tempted to change his Religion, is manifeſt; Cardinal *Mazarine* who had a great Opinion of him, made him many ſuggred Promiſes if he would come over; when the *Dauphine* was Born, he had Intimations given him, that he might one day be made his Governour, but that did not move him neither; the laſt Effort that was made upon him, was by the King himſelf

ſelf at the beginning of the Campaign in *Flanders*, in the Year 1667. when he promiſed him a ſhare in all his Secrets, and higher degrees of Command, if ſo be he would Embrace the Communion of the Church of *Rome*, but this had the ſame ſucceſs upon him with the reſt, and the Mareſchal acted his part with ſo much ſtedfaſtneſs, and in ſo Noble a manner, that the King took no Diſpleaſure thereat; and for this the Church at *Charenton* returned Publick Thanks to God, who had inſpired him with ſuch laudable Conſtancy, but without naming of him, but ſome time after that Peace was concluded, when there was no more talk of him upon that Score, he entred into the *Roman* Communion, and it was given out he did it voluntarily, and of his own accord, and I could ne'er learn by whoſe Inſtigation it was done, or what were the true Reaſons that brought him to it, but however it was, this Change of his was attended with important Conſequence, which did appear in due time, and this is all I could remark or learn concerning this Illuſtrious Perſon, only that he Abjured his Hereſie (as they call it) in *Notre-Dame*, in preſence of the Archbiſhop of *Paris*; and ſo concludes,

Paris, *May* 31. 1676. N. St.

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER XII.

Of a Book Published in France, *proposing Methods for to Ruin the Reformed, which had like to have spoiled the Court-Politicks, in pretending Favour unto them at that time.*

My Lord,

I Have in a former Letter, shewed your Lordship the great Care the *French* Court took, to have it believed, both at Home and Abroad, that their Declaration in Favour of the Reformed was real, and like to be permanent, and what Politick Ends they had therein; but a Book Entituled, the *Policy of France*, came out not long after, to wit, in the Year 1669. that had like to have spoiled all the fine Web they had spun; It was supposed to be written by the Marquess *De Chatelett*, a Gentleman of *Bretaign*; and contained one entire Chapter of Methods to Ruin the Reformed, and he was so Adventurous as to Dedicate it to the King himself, and made him a Present of one of them; but his Zeal was but coarsly Rewarded, for he was sent to the *Bastile* for his Pains, and the Book suppress; but because the Methods he proposed therein were such as were very

odd,

odd, and may be put in Execution in time, and that I cannot ſend your Lordſhip one of the Books, I have taken out the Heads, and are as followeth; he propoſed the Total Deſtruction of them as a neceſſary Work, and reſerved it for the preſent King, and whether he did really know, or was ignorant of the Court Deſigns, he did certainly believe fit his Politicks to the Intentions of the Court. He repreſented them full of Reſentment for the loſs of their Places of Security, and of being always animated with Minds to Revolting, Confuſion and Anarchy, and conſtantly ready to make uſe of any Opportunity to Re-eſtabliſh themſelves; He made them to be Enemies to the King's Proſperity, perpetual Obſtacles to his Deſigns, and always to be feared becauſe of their Animoſity, and of the number of good Soldiers, over which they could make Chiefs, by giving them Authority to Command them. He took upon him to ſhew, that the Proteſtants of *Germany* ſuffered themſelves to be ruined without any Oppoſition, and that they had too much need of the King's Protection, to Embroil themſelves with him: He ſaid the ſame thing of *England*, *Swedeland*, *Denmark*, the *United Provinces*, and of all the Proteſtants, whom he imagined to have been ſo linked to the King by ſtrong Chains of Intereſt, that they would not concern themſelves to hinder his Exterminating of the

Reformed

Reformed Religion in his own Kingdom: He put a Malicious Interpretation upon the Reformed's taking up Arms in the last Civil Wars; and he pretended to Divine, that had it not been that the War had been so soon happily terminated, they would have formed Grand Designs, made High Demands, and endeavoured to set up their Party again. He said, the Edict of *Nants* was revocable, as having been a thing extorted from the then King; and admitting it might have been formerly granted for the Benefit of the State, yet it might now be revoked for the very same reason. He was far from being of their Opinion, who thought that the Reformed were useful to the Church of *Rome* her self, because they obliged the Ecclesiasticks to Study, and lead Regular Lives; he said, that was a Trifling Argument, and concluded, that the King had sufficient Grounds to seek out ways to put them out of Condition to Hurt, or do any injury to his State. Having promised this, he was not of the Judgment to be rid of them by way of Banishment, as the *Moors* had been driven out of *Spain*; he looked upon that way of Treatment Inhumane, and withal prejudicial to the State, but he proposed Fifteen Expedients to be rid of them by little and little. The first of which was, to procure a more familiar Intercourse between the Reformed and Catholicks. Secondly,

That

That they ſhould be Rewarded with Eſtates and Honours that would be Converted, and to have a Fund ſetled for that end, which ſhould ne'er be alienated; that for the exciting of their Ambition, and not ſuppreſs that Paſſion in them which might ſerve as a Sting to their Converſion; He was of Opinion that they ſhould be permitted to Exerciſe the ſmaller Offices, but not to give them great Places, but to the Catholicks only, for to Allure the Reformed to a Change of their Religion, in hopes to attain unto them. Thirdly, To Embroil the Affairs of particular Perſons, ſo as to make them attend the Council, and principally the Gentlemen concerning all the Dependances of the Exerciſes of their Families. Fourthly, To oblige them to Rebuild the Chappels they had Demoliſhed or Prophaned, and that not by proceeding againſt them in general upon that Head, but by Suing of particular Perſons upon that Score, and to Recommend it to the Care of each Biſhop in his Dioceſs. Fifthly, To hinder the Deputy-General to interpoſe therein, which he believed might be eaſily effected, becauſe the *Hugonots* could not form a Body in *France*, and that particular Cales ought not to paſs for publick ones, and that the King would Adminiſter Juſtice without any Intervention; he would not have the Office of Deputy-General ſuppreſt, but reduce it only to a Name without any effect, and that no

no regard should be had to the General Remonstrances of the Deputy. Sixthly, To order it so that none of the Reformed should be suffered to dwell in Cities, or the Seigniories, which did appertain to such as were of their Religion; and he would have it so as they could never want specious pretences to colour that Innovation. 7thly, To suppress by Death the Chancellors among the Reformed. Eighthly, To send Catholick Commissaries into the Synods, and to chuse such Persons for that end as understood Controversie, and knew how to foment any Differences which might arise in the Assemblies; to allow no National Synods; and to require Money of the Ministers for the King's Use, under pretence of Loan, Tythes, or some other Imposition. Ninthly, To Commence some Law-Suits against them for their Debts in common, and to cause some of their Churches to be Sold. Tenthly, To Enjoin all the King's Subjects not to depart the Kingdom without leave, for the Reformed would be comprehended under such a general Order. Eleventhly, To prevent any Catholicks by means of the Confessors, to put themselves into the Service of the *Hugonots*. Twelfthly, To oblige them to observe the Fasting Days, under pretence of State Policy, for the same reason as they were obliged to keep Holidays.

Thir-

Thirteenthly, To endeavour to Marry the Reformed into *Roman* Catholick Families, and to take Care that all the Children proceeding from such Marriages, were brought up in the *Roman* Religion. Fourteenthly, To hinder the Reformed to Sell their Estates in Land, for that such sort of Estates being not to be carried away, it would oblige them to keep within the Kingdom. And Lastly, he advised, That the University of *Saumur* should be removed to some other more inconvenient place, for which he furnished them with several pretences; and he was of Opinion, that for lessening the number of Ministers, that the Candidates before they were received, should be obliged to go through a Course of Philosophy, or Study Divinity for Two Years; that they should be Examined before no other Commissioners than such as the King should name, and that none should be suffered to take the Function upon them till they were twenty-seven Years of Age. I have troubled your Lordship with a long Letter upon this ungrateful Subject, but I hope you'll pardon me, since I think it's not altogether Forreign to what I have some time since writ to your Lordship, about the *French* Courts procedure in reference to the Reformed, whom they made it their chief Business to Cajole into a profound Severity, that they might have leisure

leisure to carry on their Villanous Designs more securely; and therefore it was that this Book and the Author of it, run the Fate I have already recounted to your Lordship, whom I shall always endeavour to oblige to the utmost of my power; who am,

My Lord,

Paris, July 8.
1676. N. St.

Your Lordship's most

Humble Servant.

LETTER XIII.

Of the French *Preparations for the War in the Year* 1672 *and how they compleated their Levies.*

My Lord,

HAving in some measure traced the Methods the *French* Councils used to settle their Affairs at Home, so as to receive no Molestation from Intestine Motions when they should carry their Arms Abroad; they began now to set their Instruments more closely to work in their Neighbour Nations, but more especially in *England* and *Holland*, not only to amuse and play upon

upon those that were at the Realm of Government, but to feel the Pulse of, and tamper with all the several Factions among the People, and to make Creatures among them, that might manage them upon occasion, as might seem most for their purpose; while in the mean time they made vast Preparations underhand for War, both by Sea and Land, and the better to supply the Defects which seemed to be natural to their Native Soldiers, caused Levies to be made for them little or great, in all the *European* Nations, insomuch as by a List which I have seen, it did appear, they had in all, of Strangers only, about an Hundred and Sixty Thousand Men, besides Seamen, of whom they had likewise Debauched a considerable number from *Holland*, *England*, *Denmark* and *Swedeland*. These mighty Preparations without any visible Pretension, Alarmed all the Powers of *Christendom*; but the most, because of the small Contests then in being, with the Pope about the Regale, and of some Differences then depending about *Lorrain* and *Alsatia*, as your Lordship well knows, imagined the Storm would break towards *Italy*, and part of *Germany*; till the Preparations of the then Bishop of *Munster*, and the Admission of *French* Garrisons into the Archbishoprick of *Cologn*, and the Naval Preparations which appear'd last of all, filled them

them with Apprehenſions ſomewhat different from the firſt; among which neither *England* nor *Holland* were without ſome Fears, both which they took Care to allay, as the Minutes ſhew, by exaſperating of them afreſh by Secret Agents and Emiſſaries, one againſt another; reſolving according as their Inſtruments ſhould prevail on either to join with one againſt the other: But which of the two they ſhould Attack, was a long time the Debate of the *French* Council, for one of them, it was reſolved without Contradiction, muſt be Invaded; it being impoſſible to make any Succeſsful Attempt upon the Empire, as long as thoſe Two Countries maintained the Figure and Power they did then, and in that untoward Scituation for them too; *England* was then in a very unprepared condition, having almoſt no Navy at Sea, and none but the ordinary Forces at Land, whereas theirs were all ready and well Diſciplined and Commanded; and this unpreparedneſs of ours was a great Incitement to moſt of the *French* Council, to put their King upon the Immediate Invaſion of *England* with his whole Force, having already fore-felt the *Hollanders*, and found them, if not Inclinable to join with them in ſuch a War, yet content to ſit ſtill and be quiet; they moved it ſo hotly that they had like to have carried it, which had

they,

they, *England* had run a very great risque at that time of being Ruined; for said they, If we make sure of *England* first, we shut a Back door fast against all Danger, and may then securely Attack the *Austrian* Potentates, having first Trampled down the *Hollanders* in our way, of whom, having made sure of the *De Wits*, (their then Chief Ministers) we shall find an easie prey: But just as the Ambition of that Monarch was ready to take Fire at those so specious Motives, Monsieur *Le Tellier*, since Chancellor and Father to Monsieur *Louvois*, the Eldest and Ablest Statesman and Minister of *France* interposed; the substance of whose Speech I shall take Care to transmit to your Lordship in my next, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, August 23. 1676. N. St.

Your very Humble Servant.

LETTER XIV.

Containing an Account of Monſ. Le Tellier's *Arguments to diſſwade the* French *King from the Invaſion of* England.

My Lord,

ACcording to my Engagement in my laſt, I ſhall now entertain your Lordſhip with Monſ. *Le Tellier*'s Remonſtrance, upon the Advice given the *French* King to Invade *England*; He did acknowledge, that the Counſel propoſed was in it ſelf very good, ſuppoſing there were a certainty of effecting it; but it was to be conſidered, that it would prove of moſt pernicious Conſequence in caſe the ſame were Attempted without Succeſs. That *England* was the Rock againſt which the late formidable Power of *Spain*, had daſht in pieces its Aſpiring Fortunes, and that the like Expedition now by the Houſe of *Bourbon*, would prove alike Fatal to its Riſing Power, unleſs they were Infallibly ſure of their Blow; For to meddle with *England* at all, unleſs they could abſolutely Conquer it, would be but to rouze a ſleepy Lion, ſlur the Reputation of their Arms, and ſinge the Wings of their growing Greatneſs,

neſs, before they were fully fledg'd; That it was impoſſible to make ſuch a Conqueſt, but by Inteſtine Diviſions or Surprize, unleſs they were firſt Maſters of its Outworks, the *Low Countries*; That for a Surprize he thought it almoſt impracticable; and that tho' it was poſſible they might lure the *Hollanders* to join with them, and *England* was then indeed unprovided of Forces both by Sea and Land, yet there was no truſting to that, becauſe there were no Factions then, whoſe Deſigns were ripe enough to Favour ſuch an Enterprize: And that tho' they ſhould prove ſo Succeſsful in that Advantagious Juncture, as to enter *England*, they could expect no greater Advantage by it, than juſt to frighten the King and the Nation, and plunder them of a little Wealth, and ſo be gone, making but a *Tartarian* Expedition of it; Becauſe the univerſal and ſtrong Antipathy of the *Engliſh* People, both High and Low, againſt the *French* Name and Domination, would be an Invincible Obſtacle to their ſetling there, and would quickly make that Iſland too hot for them. That therefore meerly to Attack and Pillage them, without being able to reduce them totally, would but whet the Animoſity of thoſe Warlike Nations, whoſe Courage had always been wont to be heightned by Diſgraces, and was always Victorious, when

once fired with Indignation; That ſuch an Enterprize would for ever alienate the Heart of the then King, and the whole Royal Family, from the *French* Intereſt, and make them by Inclination as well as Intereſt, not only give way to, but paſſionately to abet and make moſt Advantagious uſe of the Natural Animoſity of their moſt Warlike Subjects againſt *France*; That it would Unite the Peoples Hearts ſo firmly to their King, and create ſo much mutual Confidence between them, that it would be impoſſible afterward to divide them, and ſo raiſe the Power of that Monarchy to a pitch, from which it could not chuſe but prove both formidable and fatal to them; That it would rouze up the King, then almoſt Drowned in Voluptuouſneſs and Senſual Delights, and make him a Man both of War and Buſineſs againſt his Will, and cauſe him to enter into ſuch Alliances with the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and other Powers, as muſt needs be of Pernicious Conſequences to the Deſigns of their great *Bourbonian* Hero; That therefore it was better not to think of any ſuch Attempt, *England* being like a Flint, ſooner broken by ſoft than hard Methods; That the King himſelf, and alſo his Brother, were much *French* by Inclination at preſent, that the former was very Indulgent to his Pleaſure, that he was that way ſo Profuſe and Prodigal, that he would always be Neceſſitous of Money, which

which his Parliament beginning to grow weary of giving him, it would e'er long cauſe ſuch ſtrugglings between the Courtiers and Patriots of the Country, as would give them ample Scope to compaſs their Ends in *England*, by a more ſure and leſs dangerous way than by a War, which in all appearance would defeat all the Advantages they might otherwiſe reap there by other Methods. That therefore the beſt way was to endeavour to take Advantage of the King's Infirmities, to try whether there were a Witty *French* Beauty, that could be Fortunate enough to gain on his Affections, for that ſuch an one would be a moſt Admirable Inſtrument for them; That they ſhould offer him Money, and feed his Extravagance that way, ſend dexterous Perſons well furniſhed with Golden Charms, to work on all the Leading Men among all their Factions, and ſecretly to keep ſome Penſioners, both among their Courtiers, Patriots and Church-men, and blow up and foment new Diviſions; That they ſhould ſend thither ſome very able Embaſſador, and keep him there a long time; That they ſhould incite the *Hollanders* to a new War with the *Engliſh*, and the *Engliſh* with them, and treat with and Promiſe Aſſiſtance to the former, to the laſt Moment; but in Concluſion join with the latter, if it were poſſible to perſwade the *Engliſh* King to a War. And that on that pretence, they might procure ſuch

numbers of *Engliſh* Forces, eſpecially Foot, as might not only amend the Defects of their own Soldiery, wh ch ſtill came very ſhort in good Infantry, but bring their own Native People by degrees, inferring daily Examples of Strangers Bravery, to imitate their Courage and Firmneſs in Set-Battels, and to get a Stock of good Infantry by Land, by drawing the *Engliſh* to them againſt the *Dutch*, as they had already done of good Ships by Sea, and Warlike Munitions, by joining before with the *Dutch* againſt the *Engliſh* in the former Wars. Yet that they might ſo order things, that whatever Stipulations were made with the King of *England* to his Advantage, to allure him to ſuch a War, ſhould be eluded, and he only made a Tool of; That tho' it was likely the Parliament of *England*, would upon any great Succeſs of the *French*, be for breaking of the War, and deny the King Money to continue it longer, yet after they had made a ſufficient Impreſſion on the *Netherlands*, they might prevail by their Golden Arguments upon the King, at leaſt to continue Neuter, and leave his Land Forces ſtill in the *French* King's Service for ſome conſiderable time; That this Juggling would in a little time raiſe Animoſities and Jealouſies between the King and Court-party, and that of the Patriots; make the latter to deny him Money, preſs hard upon his Prerogative, raiſe new Pretenſions about

about Liberty and Property, which if carefully fomented by dexterous Agents, would give the King and People there work enough in mutual Conteſts at Home, which would hinder them from acting any thing conſiderable Abroad, keep the King always under a neceſſity of continuing their Penſioner, for fear of becoming his Parliaments Underling; yet prop him up ſo as to preſerve him in a Capacity, ſtill to be able to keep them in ſome ſort under, and hinder the daring *Engliſh* Senate, from attaining any more ſo much the Soveraignty, as to Erect themſelves into a Republick; He telling them from the Famous Cardinal *Richlieu*'s Authentick Obſervation, that an Abſolute Monarch, or a Republick in the *Britiſh* Dominions, would prove almoſt alike Fatal to *France*; that therefore it was the beſt way to endeavour a Mean between this *Scylla* and *Charibdis*, by keeping a Ballance between King and Parliament, and fomenting perpetual Conteſts between them, which was to be done by having unknown Inſtruments to ſow Jealouſies among the Patriots and People againſt the Court, and make them croſs the latter; and at the ſame time make uſe of that croſneſs as an Argument to perſwade the King, that his Authority could be no way ſafe without ſticking to their Alliance, and feed him with Money both to enable him to carry on his Buſineſs and Pleaſure without a Parliament,

and to Animate him from time to time to Prorogue and Diſſolve them upon occaſion. And when upon ſome Succeſs of the King and Court-party, they ſhould begin to make ſuch ſteps towards Abſolute Power, as might, if attained to, prove dangerous to the *French* Intereſt, and Embolden our Monarch to ſlip his Neck out of their Collar; then anew to ſtir up the Patriots and Popular Party againſt him, and abandon him wholly to them, till he were forced to break them, by returning to their Alliance again. That above all things they were not to forget to make their beſt uſe of that mighty Engine called *Religion*, which tho' powerful all the World over, yet was of more prodigious force among the *Engliſh* People, than among any other in the habitable Earth: Now this Advice, my Lord, as coming from ſo Old and Experienced a Stateſman, and the Ableſt Diſciple who had *Viva Voce*, heard the Documents and Precepts of the great *Richlieu*, that Famous Architect of the *French* Grandure, was aſſented to both as the Wiſeſt and Secureſt, and was afterward in every *Punctilio* put in Execution, as Time and Conjunctures afforded occaſion; whereof your Lordſhip may expect an account in due time from him who is,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble Servant.

Paris, Sept. 17. 1676. N. St.

LET-

LETTER XV.

Of the Methods the French *use in keeping Intelligence among their Neighbour-Nations*, &c.

My Lord,

I Cannot think but that your Lordship will be pleased to understand how the *French* keep their Correspondence among, and make Tools of Men and Parties most averse to them in their Neighbour-Nations, and whom no manner of Motives would ever be prevalent enough to make Instrumental to promote an Interest so hateful to them, did they but know who they wrought for, and it is, my Lord, in this manner. Would they set the Conformists and Nonconformists peckering at one another? Thus they did it presently after the first *Dutch* War. in order to prepare Factions to make way for the Designs which followed. They had diligent Spies to inform them where Men of quaint Wits, brisk Tempers, Self-conceited, but Atheistical in Principle, or at least of very loose Morals were to be found, as likewise to take notice of those that were in reality most Able and more Zealous, both of Conformists and others, in their several ways, than

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the reſt of their Brethren; Then the firſt, by ſome Perſons that pretended to admire their Wits, and that were *French* Penſioners, (tho' ſome of them did not know it) were either by ſome preſent *modicum* of Money, Promiſe of Preferment, or ſometimes by the meer tickling Praiſes of the ſaid qualified Perſons, put upon writing ſomething that might check Religion, particularly that Eſtabliſhed; Then they knew the Crime would be laid at the Door of ſome Nonconformiſts, and cauſe the Reforming Clergy to write bitterly and reflectingly againſt them, and them again to juſtifie themſelves and recriminate, till at length they engaged not only the Body of the Nation, but even their *Auguſt* Repreſentatives likewiſe in their Quarrels, and ſo from Religious Conteſts produced State Factions, and in this all of them, tho' they were of different Parties, were told they would pleaſe both their King, Parliament and Country; For the Diſſenters were told, that tho' for Policy's ſake the King did not publickly abet them, yet he was ſecretly diſpoſed to favour them, and ſuch Writings, if well penned, would not diſpleaſe, and might procure them at laſt Eaſe in a Parliament, *&c.* And for the Conformiſts, they were eaſily perſwaded, that by Ridiculing the Diſſenters, immoderately extolling the Excellency of their own Ceremonies, and the Superlative extent of the Prerogative, they could

could not fail to pleaſe neither. And thence, My Lord, came that Legion of Books of that Nature, that came out in the Interval between the Two *Dutch* Wars, and which made way for After-Diviſions, of which I ſaw a Catalogue, with the Books printed, and of what Service they were for the Intereſt of the *French* Court; Some I have forgot, and ſome I remember, but ſhall not name any, for fear of reflecting on any worthy Perſons, who, I am perſwaded, did not know by what Inſtruments they were abetted on either ſide. Then for keeping ſeveral Lords and Commons too in Penſion to their Ends, without their Knowledge, thus they did it; They had their *Jews*, and ſome other Bankers at their Devotion, who would under an Obligation of great Secrecy, tell them; that they were ordered to allow them ſo much Money, ſaying ſometimes it was from their own King, to do him ſome private Service, in or out of Parliament, or from the *Spaniſh*, *Imperial*, or *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, under pretence of ſerving their Intereſts, and their own Countries too, againſt Prerogative, Oppreſſion in Religion, *&c.* and oftentimes directly to oppoſe Popery, and the *French* Intereſt, that by firing them on with too great vehemency to purſue thoſe Points, the *French* Court might more eaſily compaſs other Ends aimed at, which they whom they thus incited did not ſo much as dream of; Thus while many in

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our Parliaments were ſo fierce againſt Papiſts, Arbitrary Power, and the *French* Intereſt, and cried out againſt all of the Court-party as *French* Penſioners (tho' 'tis true, too many of them were ſo) as does appear; yet little thought they, that they were likewiſe ſo themſelves, and never imagined the ſame *French* were Abettors of both Parties: And the better to cover this underhand play, they drew off moſt of the Money they employ'd to this latter ſort, by the way of *Genoa*, *Florence*, *Amſterdam*, and *Hamburg*; that it might not be diſcovered, it came Originally from *France*; Nay, my Lord, by the by, be pleaſed to take notice that one main cauſe of the *French* King's Indignation againſt *Genua*, tho' it be a very ſecret one, and known to few, was their Bankers cackling, and diſcovering to the Agents of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, the Money privately ſent and diſperſed, and ſent towards *Poland*, *Hungary*, *Turky*, and ſome other Parts not named, and has made them imploy none ever ſince almoſt, but what are openly or covertly *Jews*, who ſerve the *French* King with great Fidelity for theſe Reaſons.

1. He is in their Eſteem the moſt Powerful in *Chriſtendom*.

2. Becauſe he Favours the Grand *Turk*, where they have ſo great a Commerce, and are in ſuch numbers.

3. Becauſe he gives them a liberty by connivance, tho' not open Toleration. 4.

4. Becauſe he is ſo great an Enemy to the *Auſtrian* Family, who have been ſo Cruel to them by the Inquiſition, and by Baniſhing them not only out of the *Spaniſh* Territories, but likewiſe out of the Emperor's Hereditary Countries.

5. And laſtly, Becauſe he ſeems to them to be of no Religion, but almoſt as great a Scourge to the Chriſtians in general, both Popiſh and others, as the *Turk*, *Tartar*, or *Barbarian*; their Principles naturally leading them to admire and revere any thing they think a Plague to Chriſtians, whom they are taught to Curſe daily, even in their Solemn Prayers; and therefore *England* had need have a Care of them in this Juncture.

But as for the Penſions they gave the Courtiers, they Induſtriouſly affected the tranſmiſſion of thoſe Moneys from *France*, and had their Agents buſie to buzz it abroad, in order to render them odious to the People, and to incite the Patriots the more violently againſt them; And tho' a great part of the Money they allowed the King from time to time, were ſometimes tranſmitted from the abovementioned Places, and ſome from *Venice*, yet private notice was preſently given to their Agents in *England* and elſewhere, with poſitive Orders to inform the World of the Truth of that Intrigue; unleſs, it were ſome time when a particular Critical Juncture might require a contrary Procedure.

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My Lord, this is the Sum of what I could learn in reſpect to their Correſpondence in *England*, either from the Minutes or private Converſation, of which your Lordſhip is ſenſible, I have as great an Opportunity as any other, and with which I ſhall at preſent conclude, who am,

Paris, July 11. 1684. N. St.

My Lord,
Your Honour's moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER XVI.

Of the French *King's frequent Reviews of his Troops in* 1670. *and of the umbrage taken in* England *thereupon, and of the Duke of* Buckingham's *Embaſſy into* France.

My Lord,

I Have formerly given your Lordſhip an Account of the great Levies in *France*, and vaſt Preparations for War both by Sea and Land, what Care had been taken to ſecure the Domeſtick Peace in the mean time, and what the Opinion of the *French* Miniſters of State were, in regard to what Country ſhould be Invaded by them. And I am now to acquaint your Lordſhip, that when their

their Military Preparations were pretty forward, which was in the Year 1670. they began to make frequent Reviews of their Troops, which to amuse, they continued till the end of the next Year, in several Bodies towards as many different Frontiers, that their Neighbour-Nations being used to them, and seeing no Effects follow, might think they were only done out of a Vanity to make Ostentation of the *French* Power and Grandure, to keep their Soldiers in Discipline, and find their Nobility and Active Spirits Employment, who else might busie themselves for want of Occupation in disturbing the State: The Artifice took, so that most of their Neighbours, tho' now and then they were troubled with a Fit of Thoughtfulness and Suspicion, begun to grow secure, and particularly the *Hollanders*, who thought the *French* King so much in Jest, that they tauntingly called him, *Le Roy des Reveues*, till more extraordinary and more visible Preparations and Movements, did by degrees begin to convince them of their Errour; for when they had thus finished their Reviews, they suddenly drew a very considerable Army, composed of the Flower of all their Forces towards *Calais* and *Dunkirk*, (the *Dutch* being in the mean time tampered with, as I am apt to believe concerning the Invasion of *England*, but yet now full of Jealousie at their Proceedings) and here it

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was the Council was held about the Eligibility of employing their Force, the Debates whereof I have already given your Lordſhip an Account. And as the *Dutch* were Jealous upon this approach, the *Engliſh* were much more (as your Lordſhip may well remember) to ſee ſuch a Power brave *England* on the oppoſite Shore, and look with an Amorous Eye towards it; and the more becauſe of the unprepared Poſture the Nation was then in; inſomuch that it was thought adviſable, to diſpatch an Embaſſy to ſound the Intentions of the *French* Monarch in regard to *England*; whereupon Choice was made of the Duke of *Buckingham*, who admirably well maintained that Character, and the Glory of *Great Britain*, on that Occaſion; and demeaned himſelf with ſuch an Intrepidity of Mind and Conduct, and with ſuch a Grandure and Unconcernedneſs at the Formidable Armed Powers he ſaw before his Eyes, that thoſe who had been Strangers to the then Condition of our Nation, would have thought he had been ſent from a Prince that was at the Head of twice as big an Army, as the *French* King at that time ſhewed the Duke: And that Conduct did not a little appall the Preſumption of that Ambitious King, and contributed much to the inclining of him to aequieſce in Monſieur *Le Tellier*'s Counſel; but then withal, making him take notice of the Rare and more than ordinary Parts and Abi-

lities

lities of the ſaid Duke, it put him naturally upon concluding that it was well worth the while to endeavour to gain ſuch a Perſon over to his Intereſt, whoſe Influence might be great, either in bringing his Prince to ſuch a Compliance as he deſired; or at leaſt in briguing for *France* againſt him, in caſe he proved inflexible: To this end, ſuch Complements were paſt upon the Duke, and ſuch extraordinary Honours done him, and Preſents made him, as never no Embaſſador before nor ſince hardly ever received; inſomuch as the Duke ſuffered himſelf to be Charmed, and ever ſince favoured the *French* Intereſt, either with or againſt his Prince, as Occaſion or Policy directed. In fine, he was told, that the *French* King indeed, tho' he had great Temptations from Opportunity and Intereſt to Attack *England*, yet ſuch was his Reſpect and Inclination for our King, that he was more diſpoſed to imploy his Forces againſt *Holland*; And that he might with the ſurer Succeſs undertake ſuch an Expedition, his Majeſty earneſtly preſt the Duke to do his utmoſt to Influence his Maſter to join his Naval Forces with him in that War, by which means he might Revenge the Diſgraces received in the laſt, eſpecially that of *Chatham*, as likewiſe the freſher Inſolencies of that Saucy Republick, whoſe Vicinity and Power was ſo much the more dangerous to the *Britiſh* Monarchs, than to any

other Crowned Heads, as the Subjects of these Nations were more prone to hanker after the Liberty Enjoy'd by the *Hollanders*, and to imitate their Successful Example; That by so doing, his Excellency would do his own Prince very great Service, and have the Honour of Obliging a great Monarch, who was as Generous in his Resentments, as Formidable in Power, *&c.* The Duke returned Home well satisfied, and brought a pleasing Answer to our King, and plyed him warmly with the Proposition aforesaid, tho' at first he was not much harkned too; but how, when and by whose means their Designs were afterward Accomplished, your Lordship may expect to hear, when Conveniency serves, from,

My Lord,

Paris, Nov. 30. 1676. N. St.

Your very Humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XVII.

Of the Princeſs Henrietta Maria *Dutcheſs of* Orleans's *being ſent* Anno 1670. *from the* French *Court, to diſpoſe the King to a ſecond War with the* Dutch, *in Conjunction with the* French.

My Lord,

THe *French* Court having, as I told your Lordſhip in my Laſt, gain'd the Duke of *Buckingham* entirely to their Intereſts, they began now to conceive ſome hopes to bring our King to joyn with them againſt the States, at leaſt wiſe with his Naval Power, of which they had moſt need; and therefore to ſtrike while the Iron was hot; they deliberated of ſending over an Embaſſador of their own into *England* to negotiate the Matter: but to colour the Intrigue, as if they had no Deſign of their own thereby, and to give no Matter of Jealouſie to their Neighbours, eſpecially the United Provinces. It was agreed, it ſhould be a Female Embaſſadreſs the Kings fair Siſter *Henrietta Maria* Dutcheſs of *Orleans*, and ſo give out at the ſame time, ſhe went over purely on a viſit to her Royal Bro-

thers, and that it was with ſome ſeeming Reluctancy the *French* King upon her earneſt Application to him to that Purpoſe gave his Conſent; But ſhe was furniſhed with ſuch Propoſals, which they knew well that ſent her, none could with equal ſafety and privacy Advance, nor none with equal Power and Influence recommend; and to ſecure the whole Tranſaction from the very Suſpitions, as well as the Penetration of any not of their Cabal, and to make it appear as a pure viſit, and the effect of natural Affection and void of all Intreague, her return was limited to ſo ſhort a Time, and in ſo peremptory and notorious a Manner, that it might induce the World to believe them too Suſpitious of the natural Inclinations, that Princes might ſtill retain for her Royal Brothers, and for the Weal of her and their Native Country, ſo incompatible with the exorbitant grandeur of *France*, to entruſt her with any of the myſterious *Arcana's* of their Politicks; and ſo might prevent all Jealouſie in *England*, at that critical Juncture of that interview, by ſhewing ſo great an Apprehenſion of it themſelves: She was charged with the ſame Meſſage partly, and with ſome of the ſame Arguments, which they had endeavoured to inſinuate by the Duke of *Buckingham*; but having an incomparable Advantage above him,

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or any other Embaſſador to back whatſoever ſhe advanced with all the Charms that a moſt accompliſhed and lovely Princes, and an only and moſt beloved Siſter, could be armed with; ſhe who had Wit and Dexterity enough, to manage thoſe Priviledges to the utmoſt Advantage, not only preſt the ſaid Matter, and more home and with infinitely more Freedom and Efficacy, but adventured to propoſe, yet higher things and of a much more extended Conſequence; For addreſſing her Speech to the King (though not without intermixing ſome Expreſſions equally affecting alſo to her Brother the Duke of *York*) ſhe told his Majeſty that as ſhe hoped neither of her Royal Brothers had any Reaſon to call in Queſtion her natural Affection to their Perſons, and inſeparable Inclination for whatſoever did, or ſhould at any Time appear to her to be conducing to their true Intereſt, ſo ſhe believed they had as little cauſe to doubt, but ſhe could ſee as far as another into the *French* Monarchs Heart, who loved her and admired her to that Degree, though innocently, as gave no ſmall Umbrage to *Monſieur* his Brother, and her Husband; And that ſhe did ſincerely repreſent, both as his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's Sence, and her own, that the only way to ſecure to his Majeſty, and the preſent Royal Family of *England*, a

ſtability in the Throne they were lately Reſtored to, after ſo diſmal an overthrow of the Monarchy, in the Reign and Perſon of their unhappy Father, and to reinſtate the Majeſty of the *Britiſh* Kings in its former Splendor and Security, enjoyed ſo long and gloriouſly in Catholick Times, was by all Wile and Politick Means to labour to introduce into theſe Kingdoms, the Catholick Religion, and to re-aſſume by Degrees abſolute Power. For that the Church of *England* by woful Experience had been found too weak alone to defend the Crown, and that the Diſſenters were ſoſtifly Principled for a Common-Wealth, that they would never leave till they had once more overturned the Monarchy, unleſs his Majeſty would timely provide for his Security, by Methods to be propoſed to him by her, and the moſt Chriſtian King; who ſhe knew had the utmoſt tenderneſs for his Intereſt, as was clear enough by all Expreſſions of his real Inclinations, ſince they were emancipated from the reſtraints, laid upon them under the Tutelage of a Cardinal, who was a Maſter in pure Politicks, and altogether unacquainted with thoſe nobler and more heroick Sentiments of Honour and Generoſity, which are no leſs natural and unextinguiſhable in a born Prince, then common Reaſon is in the reſt of Mankind: The chief of which expedients

pedients were flattering of the Church of *England*, and firſt perſecuting by Act of Parliament the Proteſtant Diſſenters, and wheedling with them again by a Prerogative Lenitive, and ſo by the not to be Queſtioned acceptance of the Suffering Proteſtants on the one hand, and the no leſs aſſured Non-oppoſition of thoſe of the eſtabliſhed Church on the other; as by an irreſiſtible Charm to lay aſleep that watchful Dragon, that had ſo long kept the golden Apples of Contention between the King and People, from the Raviſhment of the moſt enterprizing Monarch; and break that miſchievous Devil, that had of late been ſo buſie in aſſerting pretended Liberties; and advancing the Soveraignty of old hateful Laws, above the more Sacred Majeſty of the Princes, the only rightful Legiſlators, whilſt the Crown as ſecurely as unregardedly might ſeize, and ſeizing for all Perpetuity, appropriate as to it ſelf the important Jewel of Diſpenſing Power, which would fix and faſten the whole Chappelet of unbounded Soveraignty, by making uſe of that Popular Relaxation, to indulge the Faction eſteemed the moſt dangerous to the Monarchy, and to decoy them into a favouring of thoſe Encroachments upon the Laws, and upon the Peoples Fundamental Right, and therein the Legiſlation, who ſeemed of all Men the moſt

deeply principled against them; And so in effect to make those very Persons, the tools for the Erection of Absolute and Despotick Sway, who otherwise could hardly be reconciled to the most Just, most Legal, and most Moderate Royalty. So far were the measures to be observed at home; and those which she and their Brother of *France* advised to be used abroad, were

1. To endeavour by all possible means the Subversion of the Republick of *Holland*, the perpetual Source of Rebellion in *England*.

2. In order, with so much the more Expedition, certainty and Safety to effect the Reduction both of his own People, and of that untoward Neighbouring Nest, and receptacle of Plotters and Rebels; To resolve upon a firm and inviolable adherence to the Interest of the most Christian King, who in that Case would no way desert him, but vigorously and powerfully aid him, and carry him through all Difficulties; But in Case, added she, his Majesty could not satisfie his Conscience well enough, to attempt any such Change in Religion (as she just now had mentioned) or notwithstanding all remonstrances to the contrary, should continue over-perswaded of the two great Difficulty, or impracticableness of such an enterprize, that however as a Protestant of the Church of

England,

England, which was firm to Monarchy, if he desired to put himself into a Condition to Protect, and that Reciprocally to Defend him and his Successors in time to come; It would be absolutely necessary for him at least, to concurr with his most Christian Majesty in Subduing the Republick of *Holland*; That besides the Advantage of such a Repartition of the Conquered Country, as he could reasonably expect, he should find upon the reduction of it, that the Commonwealth Faction in *England*, and her Two other Sister Kingdoms, would dwindle away of it self, and so the King would not only become Absolute Master of his People, but as his Christian Majesty would concert the Sharing of those Provinces with his Brother of *England*, the Naval Power and Trade of *Great Britain* would receive an incredible augmentation by the Destruction of a State, that was her only Competitor at Sea, and for Commerce and Riches promoted thereby; For that not only their Shipping and Seamen, together with their Chief Sea-ports, and best Sea provinces, all entire would be his Majesty's, but also that all the most Wealthy and Substantial Merchants, and Industrious and Ingenious Tradesmen and Artificers, even of the Provinces and Parts that should fall to the Share of the most Christian King, would, in all appearance, transplant themselves either into *England* or *Ireland*, as lying

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ing more convenient for Trade, than their own Country, or at leaſt into thoſe Parts of the *Netherlands* which ſhould be reduced under the Power of the King of *Great Brittain*; To whoſe Domination, as approaching nearest the Sweetneſs and Freedom of that they now were under, they would certainly more willingly ſubmit their Perſons and Fortunes, than to that of the more Abſolute one of the *French* Monarch, for which they had entertained a Thouſand Prejudices. In fine, ſhe moſt earneſtly and affectionately beſought him to take thoſe Matters into his moſt ſerious Conſideration, and to return a ſpeedy, and if it might any ways be, a favourable Anſwer, that ſhe might have the Happineſs to return back the Meſſenger of good News, and ſuch News as might prove a Foundation of a laſting Felicity to both the Illuſtrious Families, from which both his Majeſty and her ſelf were deſcended. The King after a little ſilence, told her by way of Reply to the things ſhe had repreſented to him, That it was impoſſible for him to doubt of the ardency and reality of the Affection of a Siſter ſo Amiable, and who had always expreſt ſo much Tenderneſs for his Intereſt; That he as little queſtioned, but that ſhe had penetrated as far into the Interiors of his Brother of *France*, as it was poſſible any one could into the Heart of a King, and therefore upon her Repreſentation of him chiefly, which he

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assured her would induce him to give the more Credit to the Favourable Conjectures he had made of his Temper, during the little time he had the Honour to Converse with him whilst in Exile, and to the general Character he had, since his Personal Administration of Publick Affairs, obtained in the World, of being a Prince of great Honour and Generosity, and thereupon passing by some former unhandsom and unkind Treatments in his Court, as pure Effects and Influences of the over-ruling Ascendant of the then Regnant *Mazarine*, and not of that Prince's own Inclination; he should put much Confidence in the sincerity of the most Christian King, and accordingly desired her to return his said Majesty, his Royal and most Hearty Thanks for those obliging Expressions of Amity and Affection, he had signified to him by her, and to assure him in his Name, he should ever have his Friendship in high Esteem, and would go as great lengths as in Prudence and Interest he could, to serve him, and to comply with his Desires: But that the Matters proposed being of the highest Consequence, he must beg his Excuse if he required more time to give him a positive and satisfactory Answer thereto, than the short space limitted for her stay in *England* would permit; however, that he would with all convenient Expedition give him a better Account; In the mean while,

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he ſhould Requeſt his moſt Chriſtian Brother by her, to do him the Juſtice to believe he was as ſincerely affectioned to his Perſon, as he could be to his, and ſhould ever perſiſt to be as far as a King of *Engl.* could, his conſtant and moſt Obſequious Friend: The like Complement, as far as it was agreeable to his Circumſtances, was returned by the Duke; After which the Princeſs renewing the Charge in the Buſineſs of Religion, the King freely told her, That as to that Point, tho' he had entertained very kind and favourable Thoughts of the *Roman* Religion, and its Profeſſors, for ſeveral Reaſons he inſtanced, and did believe, that if it were Re-eſtabliſhed in his Dominions, the Monarchy would be ſafer and eaſier than it could be under the preſent ſtate of Proteſtancy, yet he was not ſo fully ſatisfied in it, as to make it his own Religion; and that on the other ſide he foreſaw ſuch unſurmountable Difficulties in attempting ſuch a Re-eſtabliſhment, that he did not think any Policy, no, nor the whole Power of *France*, could he Command it all entire, without any divertion from other Intereſted Neighbours, (too extraordinary a Juncture to be probably expected) could be able to carry him through them: To which, the Princeſs who ſaw well enough, as well by his Looks and Actions as by his Expreſſions, that ſhe had made more ſenſible Impreſſions

preſſions upon his Spirits, than he was willing to acknowledge; thinking ſhe had done enough for her part, and ſufficiently broke the Ice, for thoſe that ſhould be deſigned to puſh the Point further at more leiſure, modeſtly replied; That ſince that was his Majeſty's Sence, in which he was fixed, ſhe would wave all farther Importunities on that Subject, and leave it wholly depending between himſelf and God, whom ſhe would continually pray to Inſpire his Majeſty with Light enough to know, and Courage enough to embrace the Truth, in his appointed time; But however, ſhe ſhould be glad to know his Majeſty's Sentiments as to the Deſign againſt *Holland*; adding, that ſhe was confident, he could not but think it was at leaſt for his Intereſt, and feaſible too: Yes, Madam, anſwered the King, I am Convinced that if crowned with Succeſs, it would be enough for the Intereſt of this Monarchy, and of my People too; but yet as practicable as it ſeems to be to you, it is likewiſe not without its Difficulties, and thoſe very great ones too; for the ill Succeſs of my laſt War with that Nation, the Diſſatisfaction of my People thereupon, the Tripple League in which I am lately engaged with *Holland*, the Inclination my Subjects have for the *Dutch*, as being a Proteſtant Nation, and the Implacable Avertion they have to

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the *French*, and their Jealouſies of their Power, and of their Religion, are mighty Obſtacles in the way; However, if my Brother of *France* can propoſe me any practicable Expedients to remove them, which I much doubt, I will, as I have ſaid, do what I can to comply with him in that Enterprize: And ſo the Princeſs declaring her ſelf well ſatisfied, with what had been ſaid upon the Subject of her Errand, they paſſed from the Buſineſſes of State, to the Divertiſements of the Court, from which being obliged much ſooner to break off than they were willing, by the more ſwift than welcome approach of the time Limitted for her departure, with unconceivable Regret, and ill-preſaging Tears, ſhe took her leave of her Royal Brothers; tho' little did ſhe or they imagine it to be her laſt Farewel, for ſoon after her return to *France* ſhe died, not without vehement Suſpicion of being Poiſoned; But that her Husband the Duke of *Orleance*, had any juſt Cauſe given him further to foment his Jealouſie of her upon this Viſit, (for he certainly was ſuſpitious of her Conduct before any mention of that Journey) and ſo puſhed him on to the practice of undue means to accelerate her Fate, has been a Matter of much Diſcourſe both in *England* and *France*, and continues to this Day a Myſtery, which I will not nor cannot pretend to determine,

and

and so begging your Lordship's Pardon for this tedious Epistle, I remain,

Paris, Feb. 3. 1677. N. St.

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most

Humble Servant.

LETTER XVIII.

Of Mrs. Carewell's *coming into* England *in* 1670. *and introduced to be the King's Miss.*

My Lord,

IN one of my Letters to your Lordship, concerning Monsieur *Le Tellier*'s Sentiments, in regard to the Management of the Affairs of *England* to the Advantage of the *French*, among other Expedients he proposed the sending over some Choice Female, as might be capable to Charm a Prince, whose Heart was so susceptible of an Amorous Flame as that of the King of *England*; In Conformity to which Project, they made Choice of the Opportunity of the Princess's going over to effect it, and therefore she upon her Arrival presented our King, her Brother, with her Woman, known then by the

Name

Name of Madam *Carewell*, but much better ſince by the Title of Dutcheſs of *Portſm.* to ſerve the *French* King as a Heifer afterwards to Plow withal, as being ſuch as was not carelefly or fortuitouſly picked out from among the *French* Herd, but expreſly ſingled out for that purpoſe: And how well ſhe acted her part in time coming will appear in its proper place, ſo that if they failed in their Ends of furniſhing the King with a *French* Wife, they were reſolved to make it up, by ſupplying of him with a *French* Whore; and this being an Omiſſion in my laſt, and having nothing of greater Moment to write at preſent, to keep my Correſpondence with your Lordſhip, I have taken the Opportunity to teſtifie unto you how ready I am,

My *Lord*,

Paris, *Feb.* 13. 1677. N. St. *To Serve You.*

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LETTER. XIX.

The paces made by the Duke of Buckingham, *and afterward by the Princeſs* Henrietta Maria *Dutcheſs of* Orleans, *towards bringing the King over to joyn with the French againſt the Dutch, not fully ſucceeding according to expectation, they reſolve upon other methods: Firſt by making ſure of the Duke of* York, *and then by inciting the Dutch to provoke the King to a War with them.*

My Lord,

I have given your Lordſhip an account of the Princeſs *Henrietta*'s Negotiation in *England*, and of the Kings dilatory Anſwer, in regard to his Conjunction with the *French* to make War upon the *United Provinces*, which put the French Polititians ſomewhat to a Nonplus; but conſidering how well inclined the Duke was to the Popiſh Religion, and how he had expreſt his thoughts to the Princeſs, the King being preſent, of the advantage and reaſonableneſs of the French Propoſals, they made

an Eſſay, to ſee what they could do that way, and whether the great confidence he had with, and Influence over his Brother might not induce him to accept of the offer. They found him plyable enough; but upon Application, he did not find the King ſo, but much more diſpoſed to live at Reſt and Pleaſure, than to engage himſelf in ſo much Sollicitude, as a War would inevitably bring him to; And beſides, he was much afraid to diſcontent his People further, who were already ſo ill ſatisfied, with the ill Conduct and Diſaſters that befel them in the laſt War, and whom he knew ſo wholly averſe to a new one, unleſs the Freſh Water-Gandy-Caps and Feathers eſpecially were diſmiſſed, and the Conduct of it wholly left to the Old Tarpolians, who ſo ſucceſsfully aſſerted their Cauſe with thoſe People in the *Republican* and *Oliverian* times, the happineſs of which the late ill Succeſs had much enhaunſed in their Eyes. Yet the French Agents continued preſſing of him, and tampering with his Miniſters to compaſs their ends; urging all the ſpecious Motives in the World, and ſparing neither preſent Advances of Money, nor the moſt Magnificent Promiſes of future Acknowledgment; but finding ſtill a great Reſiſtance to any ſuch Overtures; they at length reſolved to play their Game

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another way, and employ'd their Emiſſaries in *Holland*, to ſtir up thoſe People to provoke the King's Reſentments by all the ways that Artful Malice could deviſe; they cauſed him to be repreſented to them as a mean Spirited Prince, drowned in Pleaſures, and by them Bankrupt; and that would put up any Affronts, rather than be wearied from them a Moment. That ſlender courage he had, being Cowed in the laſt War, as likewiſe were the Spirits of the proudeſt Merchants and Seamen, his Subjects, under ſuch an Unactive Prince; adding moreover, that to their certain knowledge the Duke of *York* was now a Papiſt, tho' in hugger mugger, and that the People had a ſtrong ſuſpition of it, how clandeſtinely ſoever carried, and had thereupon conceived ſuch an implacable Jealouſie againſt the Duke therefore, and againſt the King himſelf on his account, that they would never patiently brook the Command of the one, nor heartily aſſiſt or fight for the other, in a War againſt a Proteſtant State; but break into Factions, and rather abet them, then ſupport ſo Unwarlike, ſo Unfortunate, and what was worſt of all, ſo Popiſhly affected a Prince: that therefore now was the time to give that finiſhing ſtrok, to that ſo Great, ſo Glorious, and ſo Advantageous a Work to their moſt Puiſſant and Renowned Repub-

lick, which they had more than half done in the laſt War, under the favour of the moſt Powerful Aſſiſtance of their great Maſter, *Viz.* to obtain for ever the dominion of the Seas, ſo highly contended for by the *Engliſh*, and ingroſs the whole Trade of both the Hemiſpheares to themſelves; And that in ſo Glorious an Undertaking, As the Great Monarch of *France* had, when in extremity, moſt opportunely and ſucceſsfully aſſiſted them in the preceding War; So he was determined to do in this, not with a few Auxilliary Troops and Ships as before, But with his whole Force; being reſolv'd of nothing leſs than to concur with their High and Mightineſſes for the Abſolute Conqueſt of that Queen of Iſlands, that had ſo long domineered over the Sea, and pretended to give Laws upon that Element, which God and Nature had left as free as the Air it ſelf. And that their High and Mightineſſes might enter into no Umbrage of his deſigning any Greatneſs to himſelf, that might be prejudicial to them by ſuch a Conqueſt; he was content to ſhare it with them, and that ſo Partially in their Favour, that he would ſatisfie himſelf with the two Poorer Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *Ireland*; the former for the ſake of its Ancient Alliances with his Kingdom, and the latter becauſe of the Conformity of the Religion of its native

native Inhabitants, with that of his own Subjects; leaving to them the Principal, which was *England*, where all the Chief Trade, Riches and Power, both by Sea and Land of the *Brittish* Empire, was concentred together, with all its goodly dependances both in the *East* and *West Indies*, with which he could not pretend to meddle; the ſucceſs of which Propoſals I deſign ſhall be the ſubject of another Letter with the firſt opportunity, From

My Lord

Paris Feb. 28. 1677. N. S.

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER XX.

The Dutch upon the foreſaid Remonſtrances made to them by the French King, being induced to enter into a Treaty with him, were wheedled by the French Embaſſador to ſign their part of it, and to ſend it to the French King for him to ſign it; but he pretending ſpecious delays, ſends it to the King of England, *uſing it for an Argument for his compliance with the Propoſals he made to him of entring into a War in Conjunction with him againſt the States: But ordering his Embaſſador withal to acquaint him, that in caſe of his Refuſal, he muſt be obliged to turn the Sham-League with the Dutch into a real one.*

My Lord,

THE Specious Remonſtrances, and more Inviting Propoſals made on the *French* King's part to the *Dutch*, as mentioned in my laſt to your Lordſhip, ſo tickled the *Hogens*, that they ſuffered themſelves to be deluded into a cloſe Treaty with the French Court for that great Expedi-

Expedition; not at all thinking what Ruine was designed themselves, and Division of their own Territories between the *French* and *English* was then Modelling among the *Monsieurs*, as a further tentative to induce our King to arm with *France* against *Holland*; and that the very League the *French* pretended to be making with them, was but the master Stratagem to procure that other Alyance, that without the unexpected and timely interposition of Divine Providence had proved the *Mene-Tekel* of their Flowrishing State, and turned that great Magazine of the Trade and Riches of the Universe into a sorry bank of Lillies; accordingly they began first to insult our King in his Person, by multitudes of most scandalous and insupportable Pasquirades and Pictures, which the French Agents endeavouring to make him resent as they deserved, and finding still that he declined to comply with their desires; alledging again for Answer, the ill success of the last War, caused chiefly by them, the averseness of his People to another War, *&c.* And farther, his unwillingness only for injuries that personally concerned himself alone, to engage those Nations again in, so bloody and destructive a War, as after all could be of no very considerable advantage to either side, be the event what it would. They proceeded then to tempt him further by of-

fering a larger proportion of thoſe Provinces when Conquered; and beſides, ſuch an aſſiſtance in Money, as ſhould enable him to go through with the War, tho' his Parliament ſhould deny their Concurrence with him therein; and to make their perſwaſions the more effectuall, they did again warmly ply the Duke of *York*, attacking of him on the blind ſide, *Viz.* his Religion, and telling him, that tho' he were privately a *Catholick*, yet the People began to have a ſtrong ſuſpition of it, and would at long run come to know it, and would not fail then to make ſuch ſtrong brigues againſt him, as that they would certainly put him by the Succeſſion; unleſs before ſuch a Diſcovery were perfectly made, he could induce his Brother to joyn his Arms with thoſe of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, for the Conqueſt of *Holland*; where were the Vitals that Adminiſtred Life and Spirits to all thoſe Factions he had to fear, and which after the Conqueſt of that United many-headed *Hydra*, would ſoon be ſuppreſt, but could be by no other way: and that then the introduction of the *Roman Religion* into theſe Kingdoms, whenever he ſhould ſucceed to them, would be eaſie, elſe impoſſible; that his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty was then provided with ſuch formidable Forces, and had laid the Empire into ſuch a Sleep of Security, and ſo amuſed

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the other Neighbour Princes, with ſuch doubtful and contrary appearances; that before they could awake, and rub off the duſt they had thrown in their Eyes, they might have done their work on the *Hollanders*, who leaſt of all the reſt expected an Attack, and were therefore unprovided. The Duke forward enough before, but now quite overcome by theſe pretences, became their moſt earneſt Sollicitor anew to the King; but tho' he neglected nothing in that caſe, that a Prince of that great influence over his Brother could do, to bring him over to conſent to the Meaſures concerted between the *French* and him; He found him ſtill inflexible and averſe to a War, not out of any diſaffection to the Cauſe, but out of a love to eaſe, and a Principle of Fear, as I have formerly hinted to your Lordſhip: Upon which the *French Council* proceeded to their laſt Maſter Stroak in this buſineſs, reſolving in caſe they ſucceeded not therein, in ſpite of all hazzards to take the opportunity of joyning with *Holland*, to Invade and Conquer *England*, if poſſible. To this end they had all along managed a cloſe Treaty with *Holland*, even while they were endeavouring one in *England*, by the powerful Negotiation of their Friends the *De Wits*, and *Loveſtein* Faction: So then ſtill the more to rouſe up our King's Reſentments, or to Force him, to make appear to the World, that he had indeed none,

none, neither for his own Royal Dignity and Honour, nor for the Honour or Intereſt of his Relations and Kingdoms, nay not ſo much as a ſenſe of the preſervation of any of them from Dangers, tho' never ſo viſible, ſo preſent, and ſo fatal to all and every of them; they put the *De Wits* on all the efforts they could to keep down the moſt Ancient and Illuſtrious Family of *Naſſaw*, under the ſpecious pretences of the danger of the Liberty the Commonwealth might one day run from the ſuſpitious Greatneſs of that Houſe, ſo well deſerving of them; eſpecially, if ever it were ſo Fortunate, as to mount the Throne of *Great Britain*, their incompatible Rival in Naval Power and Trade; and with whom, by reaſon of their near Relation to that Crown, that Houſe could not but by Inclination and Intereſt, have ſuch a Correſpondence as muſt needs render it imprudent and unſafe in the States, to admit the preſent Prince into the ſame Honours and important Charges in that Juncture, which his Anceſtors, in the Infancy of the Commonwealth had enjoyed and exerciſed, ſo much to their Advantage; and accordingly what Steps were made by thoſe two Miniſters, to keep the Prince of *Orange* from the Poſſeſſion of the Ancient Honours and Priviledges of his Houſe, is too well known to need mention. Which Deſign being thus ſet on foot by thoſe Miniſters, the

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French ſtill the more eagerly to incite them to purſue their Point, inſinuated to them; That the only way to expect the full Accompliſhment of their Deſires in the total Deſtruction of that Family, would be to cauſe a new War to be declared againſt *England*, upon the plauſible Pretences and Encouragements before-mentioned; in which Juncture the People of *Holland*, who in the Prince his Fathers time, had begun to conceive an Umbrage of that Family would be the more eaſily brought to conſent to what remained, to the utter Depriving and Diſinabling them to aſpire to any Greatneſs that might be above their Pity: and that by the potent and auſpicious Aſſiſtance of the *French Monarch* in that War, the States coming to overpower ſo gloriouſly their Rival in Trade, and to acquire a Poſſeſſion of ſo great a ſhare of the *Britiſh* Dominions as was projected between them, and as they would in all appearance under the Favour of that preſent Conjuncture, not fail to attain to; they the *De Wits* by procuring the States ſo ſeaſonable and powerful an Aſſiſtance, and puſhing them on to a War that ſhould end with ſo much Glory and Advantage to them, would quite Eclipſe the great Services and Merits of the *Naſſovian* and *Orangian* Heroes, in the earlier Years of the Republick, and give the ſaid *De Wits* opportunity by degrees to raiſe their own Family

mily to the ſame, if not much greater Honours and Priviledges, then thoſe that had been ſo long enjoyed by that illuſtrious Houſe; in which, addeth they, you may be aſſured, that from time to time, you ſhall never want the friendly Offices, and moſt efficacious Aſſiſtances of our invincible Monarch, who is no leſs Conſtant, Generous, and Magnificent, in his Reſentments towards his Allies and Friends, then he is Formidable and Inflexible in thoſe towards his Enemies. In fine, they ſoothed theſe miſerable ambitious Miniſters to that degree, and acted that Sham-Treaty with *Holland*, by their means ſo to the Life, that the States not doubting but they were in earneſt, made all the forward Steps imaginable towards the Alliance propoſed, and began to Arm by Sea, not minding how careleſs a Poſture they left all their Places by Land, as dreaming of nothing from *France* but Friendſhip and Aſſiſtance. And accordingly that Faction having with all the *Heat* and *Diligence* imaginable, concerted and concluded a Treaty with the *French* Ambaſſador, he like a ſly Gameſter, wheedled them to ſign their part in it, and ſent it forthwith as privately to his Maſter; who, ſaid he, would not fail immediately to anſwer them with a Counter-Change; telling them, that by this means, they ſhould ſhew a great deference to his Dignity, and the Figure he made in *Europe*, and teſtifie their great Confi-

Confidence in him, then which nothing could be more obliging to a Crowned Head, eſpecially to him, who much more then any other Prince, valued himſelf upon his Honour and Integrity: and beſides, would contribute much to the ſucceſs of the great Enterpriſe they were joyntly to go upon; becauſe by this means their common Deſign would be moſt dexterouſly concealed from the *Engliſh Court*, whom his Maſter, ſaid he, amuſed all this while with a ſham-Alliance, and hopes of making Peace with you for them, *&c.* And ſo keeping them from Arming for their Defence, and ſo afterwards be executed with ſuch a ſurpriſing Celerity on them, that they ſhould ſooner ſee the *Dutch* Fleet on their Coaſts, and the *French* Troops on their Land, then hear of them. The Stratagem took, and the Inſtrument of the ſaid Treaty was with all expedition ſent ready Signed by the ſaid Faction, to the great *Monſieur*, who promiſed ſpeedily to anſwer the Ceremony on his ſide: And now the *De Wits* and their Party were Cock-a-hoop, and were already in hopes, ſharing their part in the projected Spoil and Diviſion of the *Engliſh* Monarchy; when the more politick *Monſieur* having brought them into the Snare he had laid for them, inſtead of ſending back and Signing a Counter-change of the ſaid League to them, ſent it ſecretly to his Embaſſador in *England*, with Orders privately

vately to ſhew it our King, that he might by that be convinced what advances, the People he was ſo hard to be perſwaded to wage War with, had made to attack him and his Kingdoms, as they had already inſulted his Perſon, Honour, and Relations. And how affectionate his Maſter was to his Majeſty, who was ready to depart from all the Advantages he might prudentially hope to reap by ſuch an Alliance, in that diſadvantagious Poſture of the *Britiſh* Affairs, and rather inclined to joyn with his Majeſty againſt thoſe ſawcy *Republicans*, and ſworn Enemies to all Crowned Heads: Ordering him withall, to tell him, that the Obſtinacy he perceived in his Majeſty, in refuſing to vindicate his own, his Families, and his Kingdom's Honour and Intereſt againſt them, had prevailed with him, to puſh on a Treaty with them ſo far, as to get it, by Addreſs, Signed by them afore-hand; that he might have wherewithal to give his Majeſty an undeniable Proof, both of their malicious and dangerous Intentions, and of his own ſincere Inclination to his Majeſty; and delude them into a ſecurity, that might hinder them from providing for any Defence by Land, againſt the Forces he had ready to pour in upon them; in caſe his Majeſty would pleaſe, while it was yet time, to joyn with him. And further, to add, that for his part he had not Sign'd it

yet,

yet, but was ready to Sign one much rather with his Majeſty, and would on that condition ſo protract the time with delatory Anſwers and Excuſes, that their preſent Naval Preparations ſhould be eluded, and they attacked, when they leaſt expected, and when his Majeſty might have time enough to make ſufficient Proviſion, to ſecond him therein by Sea, to both their certain and glorious Advantage: And laſtly, ordering the ſaid Ambaſſador in the cloſe to tell his Majeſty roundly, that tho' indeed he had carried on that ſham League for the Reaſons afore-ſaid, *viz.* For the Intereſt of his *Brittiſh Majeſty*, as well as his own, for the better conviction of him, of the Neceſſity, as well as Convenience of joyning with him, and lulling the Enemy into that ſecurity, that was neceſſary to the Succeſs of the Arms of both Crowns; yet if after all theſe ſteps, his Majeſty would ſtill perſiſt to be deaf to his own Intereſt, ſo viſibly and plainly made out to him; that truly his Maſter then would be forced to decline thoſe of his Majeſty, take new Meaſures conſonant to his own, and in a word, turn the ſham Alliance into a true one, by immediately Signing and Counterchanging it; and at the ſame inſtant, joyning with thoſe Enemies againſt him, without giving him time to make any tolerable Preparation, that might enable him to weather their firſt Attempts; for that

that it was his Masters undoubted Interest to keep great Forces on foot, and not to keep them idle: And that therefore if the King of *England* would not joyn with him, to employ them where he had most Inclination, and much Interest too, to employ them; he would be forced by Interest against his Inclination, to employ them against him, being resolved to employ them some where; and so the Ambassador concluded his Harangue, as I shall conclude this Letter, having been tedious, I am afraid, to your Lordship; and so remain,

My Lord,

Paris, March 19. 1677. *N. S.*

Your Lordships most humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

King Charles II. *being at length brought over to a Compliance with the French Intreagues, and to make War upon the Dutch; the French Council make all the Alliances they can among the* German *Princes*, &c. *and where they could not prevail, uſe their Endeavours to perſwade to a Neutrality.*

My Lord,

HAving in my laſt to your Lordſhip, ſet forth the ſucceſſive Intrigues of *France*, to bring our King into their Intereſt, and to come to a Rupture with the *Dutch* States; their Artifices, eſpecially the laſt (as how could it chooſe, unleſs he had been indeed the Log, he has been reſembled to) wrought ſo effectually with him, that he then, without Reluctancy, conſented to the *French* King's Overtures; and an Alliance was, tho' very privately, concluded on, wherein were inſerted Articles for a projected ſharing of the States Dominions, already Conquered by our Army, as we had been before by theirs; and now both Courts concert Meaſures to continue the Amuſement of the Enemy, and

to gain ſome other Neighbours into a Concurrence or Neutrality. The *French* King after ſome Demur, to gain time, and to finiſh his Intrigue in *England*, had no ſooner concluded it, but after his uſual way of Diſſimulation, ſent back the Inſtrument of the Treaty with *Holland* to the States, but with ſuch Additions and Amendments, as he knew would take up time to debate, tho' couched in moſt ſuggred Words, and backed with large Promiſes, of continuing and augmenting Friendſhip: And having in the mean time gained the Elector of *Cologn*, the Biſhop of *Munſter*, and ſome others on the *Rhine*, partly by Money, and partly by deceitful Pretences to joyn with them: They had alſo the vanity to attempt (tho' the very Thoughts of ſuch an Overture, were charged with inſuperable Difficulties) to delude the very *Spaniard*, if not into a Compliance, yet into a Neutrality with them, while their Forces ſhould be acting ſuch Tragedies, as were intended in their view, and not without paſſing through their Country, they having ſuch Creatures and Factions in *Spain*, as they much confided in; but after all their Wheedles and Intrigues there, they found ſuch ſtrong Oppoſition made by the *Queen-Mother*, who was a great Enemy to *France*, as gave them little grounds to hope for any great Succeſs in that Negotiation; ſo that they began to content themſelves with what they

they thought they were ſure of, *viz.* By gaining of ſo much time, in keeping of Matters in ſuſpence, both in the *Spaniſh* and *Imperial* Councils, who were naturally ſlow enough in their Deliberations, as might ſuffice them to accompliſh their deſign upon *Holland*, before they could be in a readineſs to hinder the finiſhing Stroke; (If ſo be, they ſhould declare for the States againſt them, as was to be ſuſpected they would) after which ſecure of Succeſs, they concluded they ſhould be in a condition to attack, rather then to expect the whole *Auſtrian* Force, tho' fortified with the Succours of all the reſt of *Chriſtendom*: *My Lord*, I am not at preſent furniſhed with the Topicks they went upon, to bring the *Spaniards* to a Compliance in this Matter; but I hope I ſhall be able to give your Lordſhip a good account of them in my next, which ſhall be with the next conveniency, but in the mean time, I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Apr. 15. 1677. *N. S.*

Your Honours,

moſt humble Servant.

LETTER XXII.

Coleman *being engaged in the French Intereſts, here follows the Topicks he went upon, to induce the* Spaniards *to a Neutrality in the War in* 1672.

My Lord,

THat the French Miniſters are *Gens audax omnia perpeti*, is very manifeſt, by what I have written to your Lordſhip before; but to be ſo adventurous, as to form Topicks for the engaging thoſe in the *Spaniſh* Intereſt, to favour their Deſigns, by deluding that Nation to a Neutrality, ſeems to be a Maſter-piece of their Policy, as well as Audacity: Having therefore gained Mr. *Coleman*, whom they judged of any other, the moſt proper Inſtrument to carry on ſuch a Deſign, they formed the following Topicks for him, the better to help him to compaſs it; and he was to urge cloſely.

1. That tho' his *Britannick* Majeſty had been by the intollerable Inſolencies, and baſe Outrages of the *Dutch* Nation, conſtrained and neceſſitated much againſt his Inclinations, to depart from ſo much of the tripple League, as concerned the *Hollanders*;

landers; yet he would not fail to retain ſtill, his Inclinations to promote as much as lay in him, the chief Intent and Purport of it; which was in Subſtance, to hinder the *French* from aggrandizing themſelves, to the Diminution of their Neighbours; but more particularly to the Prejudice of the Catholick King, during his Minority, provided he would ſtand Neuter.

2. That his Neutrality would be a firm Security to him, of what he yet poſſeſt in the *Netherlands*, by obviating, and taking clean away from the *French*, all manner of pretences to moleſt his Subjects.

3. That the deſtroying the *Hollanders*, who were baſe Rebels to him, (and whom it was as much Scandalous as Pernicious, for any Crowned Head to ſuffer to flouriſh and proſper in Wealth and Greatneſs, as they had but too manifeſtly done, to the Diminution of their Neighbours, and much leſs to abet) would be highly Beneficial, and of manifold Advantage to his Catholick Majeſty. For that the vaſt Trade of *Amſterdam*, and other great, populous, and flouriſhing Towns in *Holland*, and the other Provinces, being ruined and depopulated; many of the Inhabitants, at leaſt all thoſe of the *Roman* Catholick Religion or Perſwaſion, a great many of the *Deiſts*, and other *Adiaphorites*, who were very indifferent and careleſs, whether they frequent-

ed any publick Worſhip at all, or no, but chiefly, and above all other things, adored Trade and Gold, with which the *Dutch* Territories ſwarmed above any other Nation, either on this, or the other ſide of the Hemiſphere, would, without all doubt, refugiate themſelves, as being neareſt, and moſt commodious for them, in the *Spaniſh* Territories and Provinces, eſpecially *Flanders*; and would quickly multiply and encreaſe in them, not only People, but Trade and Riches, from whence, encreaſe of Power and Strength, both by Sea and Land, would be a neceſſary and infallible Conſequence: And that then, the now almoſt abandoned City of *Antwerp*, once the moſt famous, and moſt flouriſhing City in Trade, of this part of *Europe*, ſhould have free liberty to lay open her *Scheld* again, now damm'd up by the *Hollanders*; and recover her former Riches, Glory, and Strength, as would neceſſarily all the other *Spaniſh* Cities, and trading Towns in that Country, in a proportionable degree, which would be a means to make *Spain* herſelf become much more Flouriſhing and Populous.

4. That the Crown of *Spain* would by this means, have her Hands quite rid of the moſt troubleſome, as well as dangerous Rival, in Trade and Conqueſt in the *Eaſt Indies*, of any other *Europian* Nation whatſoever; in which reſpect, neither *England* nor

nor *France*, tho' trading Nations, as being Monarchies, had not been, nor indeed could poſſibly be, or become ſo prejudicial to it: However, they might, perhaps afterwards, be fortified with new Acceſſions of Strength and Power; as that one ſingle *Republick*, which, tho' ſcarce of one age's Growth, had yet already, to the Amazement, as well as Detriment of their Neighbour Nations, and eſpecially the Kingdom of *Spain*, and Territories belonging to it, monopolized into her own Hands, the advantageous, and incredibly gainful Trades to the great Kingdoms of *China*, *Japan*, and many other Parts, both of the *Eaſt Indian* and *African* Coaſts, whither in former times, no other Nations in the World, beſides thoſe of *Spain* and *Portugal*, had any manner of Acceſs.

5. That the Power of that upſtart *Republick* was already at that exorbitant Greatneſs and Grandure, that there was no poſſibility, either of humbling or depreſſing it, and much leſs of a total Subverſion of it, by any other in *Chriſtendom*, then the united Powers of the Kingdoms of *England* and *France*; and yet things were brought to that paſs, that if timely care were not taken, to have the ſaid *Republick* removed out of the way, or at leaſt mortified to a very great degree; it muſt of neceſſity, in a ſhort time riſe up, as *Old Rome* did, to ſuch a prodigious Strength,

Power, Dominion, and Grandure, that it would give Law to all the Crowned Heads in this part of the World; and perhaps, at laſt devour them, ſince it well appeared, and was conſpicuous to all that did not wilfully ſhut their Eyes, that by ſuch little Blows as the Kingdom of *England* alone was able to give them, in the late War, and Sea Engagements they had with them, their Experience, numbers of Seamen, Power, Strength, and Riches, were every day advanced and encreaſed, after the Reſpite of a ſmall breathing time of Peace: And that conſequently, if his *Catholick Majeſty*, the King of *Spain*, or rather the *Queen Regent* and Miniſters, as alſo his *Imperial Majeſty* ſhould ſuffer themſelves to be ſo over-ruled by ſuch a needleſs, as well as unſeaſonable Jealouſie, ſo far, as by their Interpoſition to obſtruct and hinder the now probable Downfal of that uſurping, and encroaching *Republick*, what could they expect and hope for in the Revolution of a few Years, but to ſee thoſe very People, whom, by their needleſs Solicitude, they had ſaved from Deſtruction, be ſo adventurous, as to ſeize into their own Hands, by way of Retaliation for their Kindneſs, their precious Mines of Gold and Silver, in the Countreys of *Peru* and *Mexico*; when it ſhould be quite out of the Power, either of the Kingdoms of *England* or *France*, or indeed both

both of them together, ſhould they find themſelves ſo diſpoſed, to prevent their inevitable Loſs, which would be not only a moſt pernicious Blow, but, as might very well be feared, even a deadly one to the illuſtrious Houſe of *Auſtria*, as well as a very ſenſible one to all the other Princes and States of *Chriſtendom*: And therefore it could not but be a matter even of high Importance, and greatly for the Intereſt and Benefit of his *Catholick Majeſty* and his Subjects in general, for him to reſolve to remain and continue neuter, in this War that was to commence ſhortly againſt the united *Dutch Provinces*, and to connive at, and give way to the Succeſs of the *French* and *Engliſh* Nations; ſince it was evidently as neceſſary and requiſite, for the Safety and Grandure of the Kingdom of *Spain*, *ut deleatur iſta Carthago*, as it was for that of *England* and *France*; from whom a mutual Jealouſie, which, as it ever was, could not but be ſtill continued, would ſufficiently ſecure *Spain* to all future Ages, from offering any ſuch Violence, or making any ſuch Attempts on their Golden, and Silver *Weſt Indies*, as would certainly, as well as unavoidably, be made in leſs then half an Age upon them, by the *Republick* of *Holland*; If his *Catholick Majeſty*, the Emperour, and his other Allies, ſhould ſtand ſo far in their own Light, and become guilty of ſo much Imprudence, which could

could hardly be thought of them, as to give any divertion unto, or otherwiſe interrupt the only Powers in *Chriſtendom*, that were able to prevent that Diſaſter, and render it quite of none Effect.

6. That his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty *Lewis* the XIVth of *France* had ſolemnly engaged to his *Britannick* Majeſty the King of *England*, that upon the Condition of a Neutrality agreed by *Spain*, he was willing to relinquiſh all pretenſions to the remainder of the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, and all the other Dominions of *Spain*, and to get that ſame Renunciation Signed and Ratified by the *Dauphine* his Son, as well as by himſelf; and to leave no room for any future Jealouſies, even by the conſent and approbation of the Three Eſtates of his Kingdom, whom he would take care to Aſſemble for that very end and purpoſe, as alſo by the Parliament of *Paris*; that ſo all occaſions and pretences of any future War between the Two Crowns of *France* and *Spain* might be entirely and totally cut off by this one Amicable and Advantageous Conceſſion; nay, and that rather than fail in this particular, his *Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty* would be brought to re-deliver to the *Catholick* King, even all the Towns, Cities and Territories taken from him by *France* in the laſt War, and keep ſtrictly to the other, as well as the *Pyrenæan* Treaty which was as much as the *Spaniards* could wiſh for themſelves

or

or had upon any occaſion inſiſted upon.

7. That the *French* King would be punctual to give ſuch ſtrict Orders to his Troops and Armies, that in all their Marches through the Countries belonging to the King of *Spain*, they ſhould be ſo far from being injurious and burdenſom to the reſpective Inhabitants of them, that they ſhould receive very great benefit and advantage from them, by their exact and liberal paying for what ever they had of them, and that he would afterward leave ſuch a firm barrier on all ſides the Country, as ſhould for ever ſecure them from all Apprehenſions of encroatchments from *France* or any other Neighbouring Nation whatſoever; and that by this means the *Spaniſh* Territories would remain very fertil, and be filled with Money and all ſorts of Rich Commodities, whilſt the *United Provinces* would be run down, and never be in a condition to moleſt or annoy them more; and what advantage and ſecurity that would be to them, they themſelves could tell, and a remembrance of former experiences in that kind, muſt needs corroborate and add ſtrength to the ſame.

8. That there was no juſt cauſe of Jealouſie to be entertained, or any great Reaſon to fear the growing greatneſs of the Kingdom of *France* upon ſuch an occaſion, for that the acceſſion of ſtrength, which by ſuch means might in ſome degree

gree happen to her, would be much more than ballanced by that which would accur to *England*; by which his *Britannick* Majesty would become a much more powerful Assistant to *Spain* and the *Spanish* Territories, against any Violations of Treaties that might afterward upon any account whatsoever happen to be offered by the *French*, then he could be at this juncture of time, even tho' joyned with the *Republick* of *Holland*; and yet rid the *Catholick* King even at the same time of such a dishonourable as well as dangerous Ally as *Holland* was at present, and which would certainly prove within a small Revolution of Years a destructive Enemy also, if they were not now in this favourable nick of time obstructed and throughly prevented.

9. That the King of *Swedland* who was the other Crowned head that had engaged himself in the Triple Alliance for the protection and security of the *Spanish Netherlands*, was likewise of the same mind and disposition to remain Neuter in the present case, unless he were provoked to joyn with the *French* and *English*; But that however he would at the same time joyn and sincerely concur with his *Britannick* Majesty for the guaranty of this desired and useful Neutrality with *France*; that both Kings would be ready to enter into a League Offensive and Defensive, with the

the Crown of *Spain* to aſſiſt the ſame with their full force and whole power, againſt any manner of infractions that ſhould happen to be made, or fall out againſt this or any other former Treaty or Treaties on the part of *France* whatſoever.

10. And Laſtly, That the *French* King was ready and willing to accept their guaranty and not only ſo, but freely to permit the Emperor of *Germany* and other of the *German* Princes, that could be brought to ſtand Neuters, and were willing to enter into the ſame, to be made Partners therein; that all the World as well as the Council of *Spain* might be convinced, beyond all ſuſpitions to the contrary of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, as well as the King of *England*'s ſincerity in that matter.

Theſe, my Lord, were the inſtructions Mr. *Coleman* had, and the Topicks he was to go upon for the carrying on this pretty Deſign; but how far he put the ſame in practiſe, that I could never learn; but he was not the only Engine they imploy'd for that purpoſe, they had their Agents in *Spain* it ſelf, who did their utmoſt to effect this Neutrality of which I may be able to give your Lordſhip an account another time; In the mean while I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble and moſt Obedient Servant.

Paris July 24. 1677. N. S.

LETTER

LETTER XXIII.

A farther Argument uſed at the Court of Spain *by the* French *Agents to perſwade that Nation to a Neutrality.*

My Lord,

TO the Topicks uſed by Mr. *Coleman* and other *French* Emiſſaries, of which I have given your Lorſhip an account already to perſwade the *Spaniards* to a Neutrality, they judged fit to ſuperadd, another to be more particularly and cloſely inſiſted upon at the Court of *Spain* it ſelf, alledging that the ruine of the *Republick* of *Holland*, was very neceſſary as upon other accounts, ſo more eſpecially in that thereby the King of *England*, who was ſo well enclined to the *Roman Catholick Religion*, and only wanted an opportunity to declare for it, and to have the Glory to Eſtabliſh it in His Dominions, which had now for above an Age and half groaned under the burden of a peſtilent Hereſie, would become ſo much maſter of his Subjects, that he would be in a condition, without any danger to himſelf and the Royal Family to introduce the ſame *Roman Catholick Religion*

ligion into his Kingdoms again, which great and glorious, as well as meritorious Work, the *Catholick* King and thoſe who had the Adminiſtration of his Dominions ought to have to heart above all other Intereſts and Conſiderations whatſoever, eſpecially ſince this would enable the Crown of *England* to do *Spain* many good and friendly offices in the Court of *Rome* as well as elſewhere, and be a means to ballance the *French* Faction there, when they ſhould take upon them, as they frequently did, to oppoſe the Intereſts and Advantages of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, as *Henry* the VIIIth and other Kings of *England* had formerly done before the Schiſm broke out, and their Kingdom came to be overſpread with Heriſie; But you know, my Lord, the effect this and the former bait and flouriſhes have had; for *Spain* after ſome ſhort diſimulation to gain time declared for *Holland*, on whoſe fate they well foreſaw that of their *Netherlands*, and the whole Fortune of the Houſe of *Auſtria* depended; in which reſolutions notwithſtanding all the Artifices uſed to the contrary, they were ſeconded by the Emperor, who then had his Arms looſe, and by ſome other Princes on that ſide, whom tho' they fail'd to hinder to enter into an Alliance for the defence of *Holland*, yet they have met ſince with too much ſucceſs in rendring their Conjunction as little hurtful to them as might

might be, and of which I may in time be able to give your Lordſhip the particulars, who am

Paris Aug. 5. 1677. N. S.

My Lord,

Your Humble Servant.

LETTER XXIV.

Of the ſhutting up of the Exchequer by King Charles *II in* January 167⅘.

My Lord,

I Need make no repetition to your Lordſhip of what the *French* have done by Foreign Alliances in *Germany*; by engaging our King to conſent to the Second War againſt the *Dutch*, and the Topicks they went upon to perſwade others whom they had reaſon to fear would concern themſelves in the Quarrel when they ſaw their Neighbours Houſe ſet on Fire, to a Neutrality in the caſe, and more particularly the *Spaniards* of which, Tranſactions I have not long ſince ſent your Lordſhip the particulars; but what ever was done abroad by them for the ruining of the *Dutch Republick* they were no leſs induſtrious in our Nation to put the King (who God knows was but too ſuſceptible of their Charms)

Charms, upon ſuch methods as would Bankrupt his Reputation with his own Subjects, and ſo become an entire dependant upon them for his ſupport. Two things they had more eſpecially in view for the accompliſhment hereof, the one was that he ſhould ſhut up the *Exchequer* under the pretence of the abſolute neceſſity of it for want of Money to bear up the port the Nation ought at that time to make in the World when their Neighbours were in ſo formidable a Poſture; but they knew well enough and could not but foreſee (as I find they have noted it) that he would by ſuch a ſurprizing and unparallelled Act loſe all his Credit for ever of borrowing Money again, otherwiſe then on the Branches of his Revenue, or Acts of Parliament; and would deter the Parliament from venturing to be ſo profuſe and liberal as they had formerly been to him any more for the time to come, upon never ſo preſſing occaſions; at leaſt without binding his hands, and reſerving to themſelves the care of laying out as well as raiſing any Moneys to be given to him; and what could the conſequence thereof be, but that he muſt be reduced either of being treated as an Underling or a *Doge* (which they took eſpecial care to infuſe into his head) by his Parliaments; or which they aimed at chiefly, to do the *French* King's drudgery, to have Money to maintain his Pleaſures,

and keep up his Dignity and Authority againſt any attempts, which the Jealouſies cauſed by the faults he had too unwarily been inſnared into by his falſe Friends on this ſide, might ſo ſtrongly influence moſt Orders of Men in one degree or other unto throughout his Kingdoms againſt it, and which he might eaſily be induced to chooſe; prefering rather to be a Penſioner, and at the beck of a Forreigner, then the courteſie of his own Subjects, who have never refuſed to ſupport him in what tended to his real Intereſt and Honour upon any moderate proſpect of ſecurity for it; but things did not end here. The other deſign of theirs was not only in view but cloſe at the heels of Granting a Toleration of Religion by vertue of his Prerogative Royal, of which your Lordſhip will hear more in my next, in the mean time I am,

My Lord

Paris Sept. 12. 1677. N. S.

Your very Humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

Of Liberty of Conſcience granted by King Charles *II in the Year* 167[illegible], *how and to what ends attained.*

My Lord,

IT was not enough for this Court to engage the King to conſent to a ſecond War with the *Dutch*, and ſhutting up the *Exchequer* purely to ſerve their Intereſt and Deſigns, but they muſt put him upon another piece of State-Druggery, which at the ſame time, I am well ſatisfied he was not of himſelf much averſe to, and that was the Declaration of Indulgence to tender Conſciences, as they have been pleaſed to cant it; they knew well enough what ſevere Laws were in force againſt all thoſe that diſſented from the Publick Church, and ſome of them freſh enough in memory not to be ſo ſoon forgotten, and they knew full as well, that both the Popiſh and Presbyterianly affected Perſons as well as the Prerogative and Republican Party who then began to revive, that were about the King, would greedily promote it, or at leaſtwiſe ſome of all the mentioned ſorts, as a means whereby to attain to the ends aimed at by thoſe different Factions.

theſe the *Monſieurs* took care to influence in their ſeveral ways ſo as to ſpur up the King not to delay the granting of it; but whatever the ſeveral Parties ends were in the obtaining of ſuch a Grant, the intent of *France* was chiefly to divide us, and ſo make ſure of the other event of their other Meaſures; for they concluded then, had the King gained that point without diſpute, and the People ſuffered that diſpenſing with the Laws to paſs tamely and without any interrogating about it, for an inherent Prerogative of the *Engliſh* Crown; that he would be able to keep a firmer Alliance with them, and aſſiſt them in all their Deſigns without controul with his Arms, and that he ſhould at long-run be eaſily perſwaded to receive Twenty or Thirty Thouſand Auxiliaries to ſecure his new acquired Authority, in that and other Uſurpations they intended to put him upon both in Civil and Religious Matters, in lieu of the *Brittiſh* Forces he ſhould furniſh the *French* King with; or if he ſhould happen to be ſo weak as to yield up that important piece of Royalty to the Parliament; that ſtill by ſuch a diminution of Power he would in time by their preſſing more and more upon him, as they had contrived in that caſe they ſhould, be ſtill neceſſitated in his extremity to have recourſe to their help againſt the popular Waves, which when their ſtate *Eolus's* had blown

blown enough to a ſufficient high Sea, they deſigned to aſſiſt him to aſſwage, for fear elſe of giving place to the ſecond Reſurrection of that terrible *Monſter* called a *Commonwealth*, which they dreaded more then any thing that could have happened in this Weſtern World; the memory of what a terror that late *Monſter* in our Iſles had been to them, as well as to the reſt of their Neighbour Nations, being yet too freſh to have been forgotten by them; thus did theſe State Empericks drench us, and brought our Nation under ſuch Convulſions, that without the help of kind Heaven, muſt end in a total Diſſolution, *Sed futura neſcimus.* I am,

My Lord,

Paris Decemb. 16, 1677. N. S. *Your Conſtant and Faithful Servant.*

LETTER. XXVI.

The Opinion of the French *Court concerning the five Perſons that made up the Cabal in* England *in the Year*, 167½.

My Lord,

THE Miniſters of this Court are not only the moſt inquiſitive Perſons in the World into the Affairs of other Courts, but

even into the Perſons that manage them, whoſe Natures, Diſpoſitions, Religion, Natural and Acquired Abilities, as well as Reſpective Infirmities, they endeavour to ſift out to the quick, that ſo they may uſe them or ſhun them as they find occaſion; and for this reaſon it is that they make ſome Remarks upon them in their Minutes as well as upon the Affairs tranſacted by them; And therefore ſince the Five Perſons who made up the Cabal in *England* a few years ago, and who your Lordſhip may remember were the Dukes of *Buckingham* and *Lauderdale*, the Earls of *Shaftsbury* and *Arlington*, and the Lord Treaſurer *Clifford*, were very diſtinguiſhable for the Stations they were in, the Offices they held and the Parts each of them acted in the Government, I find this Character given of them: For the Duke of *Buckingham* as he was the Kings Favourite, ſo he really deſerved to be ſo, as being very capable to be a Miniſter of State, if his application to buſineſs had been anſwerable to his Talents, if his mind, which was furniſhed with excellent Endowments had not been diſtracted with *Libertiniſm* which was in him to an extream degree, and by a love to his Pleaſures, which made one of thoſe Perſons in the World that was fitteſt for great and ſolid things, vain and frivolous. Of the Duke of *Lauderdale* there is little or nothing ſaid, but that he is a great and quaint Politician,

tian, and no queſtion but he has merited that Character at their hand: Of my Lord *Clifford* they are as profuſe in their Praiſes, as I doubt they have been too of their Money, ſaying; he was a Perſon who wanted nothing but a Theatre, where Vertue and Reaſon had been much more in uſe than it was in his Country in the Age wherein he lived, for to be ſuperiour to and overtop the reſt: My Lord of *Arlinton* they make to be a Perſon of a meaner Capacity and more limitted Genius than any of the Five, but ſay his Experiences ſupply the Defect, and has acquired him eſpecially a very great knowledge of Forreign Affairs; laſt of all, they bring in *Anthony Aſhley Cooper* the Renowned Earl of *Shaftsbury* of whom they ſay; he was by far the fitter Perſon of any of them to manage a great Enterprize, and ſo was as the Soul to all the reſt, being endued with a vaſt Capacity, clear Judgment, bold Nature, and ſubtil Wit, equally firm and conſtant in all he undertook; a conſtant Friend but an implacable Enemy, with many other Expreſſions, ſuch as his not being terrified neither with the greatneſs nor the multitude of the Crimes he judges neceſſary for his own preſervation, or the deſtruction of others, much to his Lordſhips diſhonour, which is a clear Argument he was not for their Intereſt, and for which he is much behold-

ing to them. Your Lordſhip will pardon the freedom I take with You, and accept of the ſincere endeavours to ſerve you of,

My Lord,

Paris Jan. 12. 1678. N. S.

Your Honours moſt Humble and moſt Obedient Servant.

LETTER XXVII.

Of the Methods practiſed by the French *Miniſters to corrupt our Embaſſadors.*

My Lord,

HAving given your Lordſhip ſome account of the opinion the *French* Court have had of ſome of our Statelmen; it may be it will not be unacceptable to recount to your honour in this place ſome of thoſe ways they have taken here to corrupt and pervert our Embaſſadors; And I can boldly affirm that there has been hardly any one Embaſſador ſent from our Court hither, ſince the Reſtoration whom they have not endeavoured to corrupt and to get into a private Intreague to traverſe not only what he was to Negotiate, but even ſomething of what themſelves preſt on our Princes by their own private Agents, and on ſome of whom, I have named one

to

to your Lordſhip formerly, they have made very great impreſſions to our Nations detriment; for matters of main Conſequence, were treated of by private Miniſters or Meſſengers between both Kings, which were not as much as mentioned to the Embaſſadors ſent in Publick, who have been on our ſide ſent only for Parade, to Negotiate many times, things whereof the contrary had been moſt commonly agreed upon eſpecially in private, only to blind by that piece of Formality the Eyes of our Subjects at home, and of our Neighbours abroad; or elſe to treat about matters of meer Complement or of but ordinary concern; and tho' what has been privately treated on between the Two Kings, or but only propoſed was of great Concern to be kept ſecret, and that for that very reaſon they knew our Embaſſadors were not made acquainted with it, yet ſuch has been their Malice and Treachery to our King and Country, as to diſcover to our Embaſſadors or Envoys and their Secretaries, ſuch parts thereof as they have thought, being once known to them, would be moſt proper and effectual to induce our Miniſters to enter into a particular Cabal with them for by-ends, and many times to affirm things more invidious than ordinary to have been agreed upon between both Courts, which were only propoſed; which kind of Communication of theirs had a very

ry powerful influence by the curioſity that is natural to all Mankind, to work upon our Miniſters to entertain ſuch a Correſpondence with them to the diſhonour and detriment of their King and Country; for they have told them ſometimes, that not only the Points propoſed by the *Dutcheſs* of *Orleans*, but other things of as bad and dangerous conſequence for the Subjects and Religion in *England*, were abſolutely concluded on between both Crowns unknown unto them; and that our King and Duke of *York* had taken ſuch and ſuch Meaſures to put themſelves into a Condition to do what they pleaſed, and that the King their Maſter was willing to flatter them in ſuch hopes and feed them with a little Money to keep them from taking part with his Enemies; yet that truly at the bottom he had no ſuch Zeal for Religion nor for the Pope of *Rome*, as he had not for the King of *England*'s over great Power and Abſoluteneſs in Rule, being things which could not but be prejudicial and very incompatible with his own greatneſs, and therefore he ſhould not fail underhand to favour the People of *England* in ſupporting their Liberties and Rights, and defending their Religion, and confining the Kingly or Regal Power to its own due limits; And therefore if they, *Viz.* our Envoys or Miniſters would ſerve him in that deſign, they might aſſure themſelves they

they ſhould be well gratified for their Compliance; that there was no occaſion to ſcruple it; ſince they knew well enough that our Government was but a qualified Monarchy, wherein the Subject owed rather more Allegiance to their Country than they did to their Prince; And that ſince their King went about to deal ſo unfairly and injuriouſly with their Country, as to enter into Leagues and Treaties, and that underhand with a Foreign Prince, contrary to their true Intereſt, and deceived his Embaſſadors by tranſacting things different from, and oppoſite to what they had received in their Inſtructions, and truſted not his own Miniſters but only Forreigners with his main Secrets of State; it could not be thought any great infidelity in them to deceive ſuch a Prince, and to enter into private Intreagues againſt ſuch Deſigns as were pernicious and deſtructive to their Country, and would be ſo to the Prince himſelf, if not prevented in time, with a great deal more matter ſtill more invidious than that, to the ſame purpoſe.

Such Methods as theſe, My Lord, I find in the minutes of the Inſtructions preſcribed from time to time, to thoſe who are imploy'd to converſe with our *Engliſh* Embaſſadors or Envoys, and after-notes do alſo remark they had ſucceſs enough with ſome of them, whom your Lordſhip may ſo well gueſs at, that I need not name them.

How-

However this opinion they entertained of moſt of the *Engliſh* whom they gained into Intrigue, except it were the Duke of *Buckingham* and one or two more, that they ſerved them with the ſame mind, with which they imploy'd them, for this was and is ſtill an uſual ſaying with them, *We imploy'd them not for any love we have had to them, or any good we intended them, but only for the Intereſt and Advantage of our own King, and the Diſhonour and Diſadvantage of theirs.* So they as we believe and have by experience found by moſt, ſerved us not for any love to our Intereſt, but to our Money, and with intent to make what we intended for the diſſervice of their Country turn in the end for the good and benefit of it, or at leaſt to the Factions and Perſwaſions they themſelves were off; I could inlarge much more upon this Head but I have been already tedious and therefore I muſt conclude and remain,

My Lord,

Paris March 19. 1678. N. S.

Your Lordſhips moſt Devoted and Humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXVIII.

Of the French Reſolutions, *to elude any Advantage the* Engliſh *might receive by the War.*

My Lord,

HAving already given your Lordſhip an account how our King was brought into the Alliance with *France*, and to engage in a ſecond *Dutch* War; I ſhall now proceed to ſet forth the inſincerity of the *French* Friendſhip, and how little Benefit our King was to reap thereby, in caſe of Succeſs, and the Methods they had to elude him. Tho' their chief Deſign was to deſtroy *Holland*, yet they intended *England* ſhould reap no Benefit thereby, but rather decreaſe and truckle under them; for that they meant nothing leſs then the real Performance to our King, of his Share in the projected Diviſion of the Enemies Countrey, as if it had been their Motto, *Pereat Hollandus, nec non ſubſidat Anglus.* And therefore they ſo reſolved to carry things on by Sea, as that they ſeemed to be rather unconcerned Spectators, then Actors for us in any of the Engagements; tho' your Lordſhip well knows, that afterward, when they were left alone with the

the War, they could Fight well enough to Defeat the *Dutch* and *Spaniſh* Fleets in the *Mediterranean*, and bereave that State of their famous Admiral *de Ruyter*, which was more then ever we in all our Combats with him could effect; For as if the *French* Dealing had been a Graft of old *Punick Faith*, they treated us more like perfidious *Africans*, then generous *Romans*, giving not only private Orders to the Commanders of their Naval Forces, which they ſhould ſend us at Sea, to avoid as much as was poſſible, any effectual Fighting for us, but only to obſerve and learn what Improvements they could from us, both as to our manner of Fighting, and the Situation of our Harbours; and in the main, to approve themſelves, not only as Cyphers, but as broken Reeds to us, who were in expectation of great things from them; and this evidently appear'd afterward by their Conduct towards Captain *Martel*, who for falling in bravely with us againſt the *Dutch*, was firſt ſoundly checked, and then diſgraceſully caſhir'd for his Honeſty and Bravery: and as their Inſtructions by Sea, to their Officers, was to play the *Legerdemain* with us in this manner; they gave the like Inſtructions to their Land Commanders on the *Holland* ſide; and particularly, tho' it had been concerted between both Courts, that whilſt we ſhould attack *Zealand*, which was the Province alotted

alotted to our ſhare; their General in the *Low Countreys* ſhould divert all Relief from it, by a great and ſudden Irruption into their other Provinces, which in the Conſternation they then muſt needs be put to, he might moſt effectually do, yet not only their Minutes, but the Event clearly ſhewed it was the leaſt of their Thoughts, we ſhould have a foot of Ground for our ſhare on that ſide; for you may very well remember, that when our Army was afterward actually Embarqu'd for that Enterprize, in which in all probability, had he done his part, they had ſucceeded; yet in that critical Moment wherein he ſhould have acted according to the Leſſon given him, he did upon ſome frivolous Pretences neglect the ſame, and ſo fruſtrated that Expedition, which obliged our Forces with no ſmall Confuſion to return back, and Land without attempting any thing: It's moſt certain, *My Lord*, and by their Minutes it doth appear, that they had concerted before hand, that in caſe they met with any powerful Reſiſtance by Land, that then their Auxiliary Squadron at Sea, ſhould act in earneſt with us, and vigorouſly ſecond us in humbling the Enemy; but if they made any conſiderable Conqueſt in the *Dutch* Territories, which, according as they had laid their Meaſures, they ſuppoſed they could not fail of, then they were to obſerve the Cautions ſince

practiſed

practiſed by them; for that their Intereſt required no further, then that we ſhould with as much Damage to our ſelves, as might be without Advantage to the *Hollanders*, divert and debilitate their Force; but to ſuffer us to be abſolute Maſters of the Seas, or of but one Maritine place on the *Belgick* Shoar, was too great an Error in Pollicy for them to commit; but in caſe there were an appearance, that our Fleet, notwithſtanding their baſe Prevarications ſhould maſter that of the *Dutch*; and that at the ſame time their Armies by Land made progreſs in the Conqueſt they thought themſelves ſure of, that then they ſhould by their Emiſſaries, both in our Court and Countrey ſow Jealouſies, but more eſpecially to propagate a ſtrong Suſpition of the Duke's having embraced the *Roman* Religion, which they were ſure would work the ſame, if not a greater Effect, then the publick certain Knowledge of it could do; for it would cauſe ſuch Factions and Diviſions therein, and ſuch an Averſion to that Prince, that he ſhould be forced to yield up his Command into other hands, and to alienate them from the Quarrel, that it would moſt effectually hinder the *Engliſh* Succeſs from paſſing the Bounds they intended them; and hence would ariſe ſuch a Diſreputation to the King, and ſuch a Diſſatisfaction in the People in general, as ſhould conjure up ſuch deviliſh

deviliſh Factions, as with all the Art he had, he ſhould never be able to lay quiet enough to leave him at liberty to act any thing conſiderable againſt the *French* Intereſt; in caſe he ſhould attempt that way, to regain his Subjects Confidence and Eſteem; and conſequently would deter him from the very Thoughts of diſobliging ſuch a Friend, and quitting ſuch Alliance, of ſo near, ſo preſent, and of ſo potent a Protector, as the *French* King had made himſelf paſs with our deluded Prince, againſt the ſo much dreaded Practices of the *Republicans*, which thoſe Emiſſaries ſtill took care, tho' covertly, to repreſent in the frightfuleſt Colours, their moſt *Romantick* Inventions could ſupply them; and ſo, with my humbleſt Reſpects to your Lordſhip, Concludes,

My Lord,

Paris, March 31. 1678.

Your Lordſhips

moſt humble Servant.

LETTER XXVIII.

Of the Succeſs of the French *Arms againſt the* United Provinces, *in the Year*, 1672. *Their further Reſolves to Elude us, and their Wheedles to induce the* Amſterdamers *to yield.*

My Lord,

THE States being at length rouſed up out of their ſleepy Security, and beginning to dread, that notwithſtanding all the *French* Wheedles and Deluſions, thoſe vaſt Preparations by Land, and the laſie Movements of their Armies, boded no good to them, did by their Embaſſador at *Paris*, who was a Son of *Hugo Grotius*, offer the *French* King all the Satisfaction imaginable; But that haughty Monarch had concerted his Meaſures ſo well, and thought himſelf now ſo ſure of his Game, that all their Offers were laughed at. Your Lordſhip knows well enough, what a buſtle was made in *England*, by Summoning of the *Eaſt India* Company to give an account of the Inſults of the *Dutch* upon their Factories, ſince the Peace at *Breda*, (who anſwered, and gave it under their Hands, that they knew of none) and ſuch other ſtuff as that was; yet the *French* King did not think fit

fit to trouble his Brains with any ſuch Pretenſions; but his chief Motive to undertake this War was, that that State did eclipſe his Glory, and muſt be humbled, *&c.* And accordingly gave his Armies Orders to enter the *Dutch* Territories. I need not recite to your Lordſhip, the Succeſs he met with in his Enterprize, and how like a Torrent he carried all before him; how *Rhinburg*, *Doſſery*, *Deudekom*, *Rees*, *Weſel*, *Emerick*, *Doesburg*, *Tureſume*, *Nimeguen*, *Swoll*, *Daventer*, *Grave*, *Arnheim*, *Skinenſchon*, *Crevecoeer*, fell quickly into his hands; and *Coventer* to the Biſhop of *Munſter*, his Confederate; and the greedy *Monſieur* now began with an amorous Eye to look upon *Amſterdam*, which he did not queſtion but to be ſpeedily Maſter of, and it was the leaſt of his Intenſion to allow our King any Share or Part of the Repartition before concerted on between them; And tho' it were privately ſuggeſted unto him, by a grave Miniſter that attended him, that if he proceeded any further, he doubted his Conduct would be contrary to his Intereſt, as tending, how much ſoever he doted on their friendſhip, to alienate the King of *England*'s Affections from them by degrees, and convert the Confidence he had in their Sincerity, into utmoſt Deteſtation; eſpecially the main Charms, being by the Death of his principal *Charmereſs*, his late lovely and beloved Siſter, in a manner diſſolved; and

tho' he ſhould be over-awed by other Conſiderations, as to ſmother his Reſentments; yet it would ſo loudly awaken the Old Averſion of our Nation againſt them; that far from being able to continue much longer in League with them, it would be impoſſible for him, during ſuch a Juncture, and under ſuch Provocations, to contain his irritated Subjects within the Bounds of a ſtupid Neutrality, or reſtrain their Fury from recoiling upon himſelf and the Royal Family any other way, then by letting of them looſe upon the *French*; and ſuffering of them to wreak their Revenge and long curbed Inclination, in an open and vigorous War on their old Adverſaries, to oblige them to regorge thoſe delicate Morſels, of which they had ſo perfidiouſly and unfairly defrauded them of their ſtipulated Share, whilſt their Allies and Confederates: Yet, *My Lord*, Exceſs of Proſperity, had ſo blinded the *French* King, that like the Emperour *Charles* V. of *Auſtria*, when he had taken *Francis* the firſt, then King of *France*, Priſoner at the Battle of *Pavia*, he fancied they had all the World now in a String; and had partly already provided, and partly concerted ſuch excellent Salves againſt all Inconveniencies of that kind; that as ſecure, againſt all Contingencies, or the jadiſh Tricks of Fortune, whom they imagined to be now faſtned with too ſtrong and well-contrived-harneſs, to their triumphant

phant Chariot, to kick againſt her Drivers, much leſs break her Rains; they thought they might incontrouledly play what Tricks they would with the *Engliſh*; tho' to flatter us with the hopes of our Repartition, would be neceſſary yet for a time, as it would be eaſie, after the Reduction of *Amſterdam*, and the entire Conqueſt of thoſe Countreys, both by ſpecious Arguments, to juſtifie againſt our precarious Plea their intended retention of the whole to themſelves, and to back their Uſurpations by force, when once in Poſſeſſion: As did the Lion in the Fable to the Beaſts, who on the plauſible Condition of being allowed an equitable Share, had entred into a Confederacy of hunting with his *Brutiſh* Majeſty; but he, when all was done, making himſelf to be Judge and Sharer, had, upon *Alamode* Pretences, the *Brutiſh* Conſcience to take, and by force to keep all from them: And accordingly the *French*, when they found that on their ſide Victory advanced not on Tortoiſe Claws, but Eagles Wings, and ſaw themſelves before either Neighbours or Allies were aware, Maſters of the beſt part of the Territories of that diſtreſſed State, and with their Swords in their Hands, point almoſt to the Vitals of it: As they were moſt ſurpriſingly active, in taking all they could for themſelves, moſt liberal in allotting our Auxiliaries in their Armies, their full ſhare

in the Fatigues of the War, moſt falſe to the Faith of our mutual League, by declining in their turn, to ſecond thoſe Advances we were ready to make towards the like Succeſs; and in fine, moſt perfidiouſly buſie in caſting Rubs in our way, as I have before hinted to your Lordſhip, to balk, and in planting thoſe Lights to miſguide and ſhipwrack our Deſigns: So by their Conduct, as well as Minutes, it did appear, that they intended not to ſtop there, but that after thoſe ſtupendious Progreſſes that favoured their Beginnings: It was reſolved by them, to puſh on their Conqueſt to the utmoſt, without demurring upon any Points or Scruples relating to us, even into thoſe Parts belonging to our Repartition; and eſpecially to ſeize on *Amſterdam* it ſelf, if poſſible, before we could reflect on, and much leſs oppoſe ſo ſudden an Exploit; which, Capture alone, they, not without Reaſon thought, would be ſucceeded with a voluntary Ceſſion of all the remaining Places and Provinces, and with the Acceſſion of the moſt part of the Fleets, Merchants, and Colonies, of that potent *Republick*; who would not fail to conceive, partly, for fear of loſing otherwiſe their whole Proprieties in the Moneys and Effects left by them, in that great Magazine of both Hemiſphears; and partly to enjoy the pretended Liberties and Immunities, mighty Priviledges, and other prodigious Advan-

vantages, with which their Agents contrary to their League with us, had already privately tempted, and had Inſtructions further, to allure thoſe induſtrious and thriving People with, to come over perfectly to them, and decline us: Againſt whom their Emiſſaries imployed ſo many Arts, to exaſperate thoſe People; That tho' both Enemies, and the *French* much more formidable then we, to what by them, and all free-born People, was moſt Prizable, *viz.* Liberty, Property, and Religion, yet the *Engliſh* was at that time, the more hated name of the two, to their depraved Apprehenſion.

And as for our King, they reckoned him ſo enchanted with the Opinion, both of the Neceſſity and Integrity of their Friendſhip to him, and ſo intent in that confidence on his beloved Pleaſures, with another She-Magitian of theirs newly ſent him for that purpoſe, tempered with the moſt intoxicating Venom, known to Female Arts, that they never thought he could have any ſenſe at liberty, to mind what they did: and therefore knowing on the other ſide, there could arrive no diſturbance time enough from the Empire, to ſpoile their Game, it thundring from thence yet, but afar off, they were moving with all greedineſs, their Harpy-Talons, to ſeize ont his important Prey: And had without all doubt, attained their purpoſe in the ſtrange and pannick Terror, that at that

time ſeemed to diſable the Hands, and lock up the Senſes, of the otherwiſe couragious and politick Inhabitants of that famous *Emporium*, had not Divine Providence juſt in that Moment, by two moſt unlikely Accidents, but yet moſt effectual Expedients interpoſed between them and Deſtruction, of which I may give your Lordſhip ſome hints in my next; who am in the mean time,

My Lord,
Your Honours,
moſt humble Servant.

Paris, Apr. 29. 1678. *N. S.*

LETTER XXIX.

Of the Maſſacring the De Wits, *the Revolution in* Holland, *and the Reſtitution of the Prince of* Orange *to all the Authority of his Anceſtors; with Offers made him by the* French *King, of the Soveraignty of the* United Provinces, *and his Rejection of them.*

My Lord,

IN my laſt to your Lordſhip, I gave you ſome account of the Progreſs of the *French* Army, in their Conqueſt of the *United*

nited Provinces; the Reſolutions they had taken, both to elude the Crown of *England* of receiving any Benefit by the War, to puſh on their own Conqueſts, and Wheedles to induce the City of *Amſterdam* to yield to them: And I have more over hinted to your Lordſhip, that there fell out two unexpected Accidents at that time, which put a full ſtop to their Arms; The firſt whereof, I ſhall briefly run over to your Lordſhip; For while the *French* Armies were ready to ſeize that important Place, and that every individual Perſon was in that Conſternation, that they only thought of ſaving their own Families, without otherwiſe concerning themſelves about the Intereſt of their Countrey; nay, and that without ſtaying for the *French* King's ſending a Summons for the Town to yield, a Council was held in the City, whether they ſhould not go out to meet him, to deſire, he would be pleaſed to take it into his Protection, as well as all the Inhabitants thereof; there was very great Danger of their coming to this Reſolution; when the Divine Providence wonderfully appeared, by inſpiring a couragious Citizen, tho' till then, no very remarkable one neither, whoſe Name (and perhaps your Lordſhip ne'er heard it before) was *Oſſe*, and ought certainly to be conſecrated to Poſterity, ſo as never to be left out of the Annals of Time; and who was immediately ſeconded by another

nother called *Haſſenaer*, to ſtand up alone in the dreadful Gap, and with a Voice like a Trumpet, to awaken his diſpirited Countrymen out of the Lethargy of black Deſpondency, with which the cowardly Tyrant Fear had bound up both their Limbs and Intellectuals, and to excite them, as the poor *Geeſe* formerly did the drowſy *Romans*, at leaſt to make ſome Defence for that Capital, and *Capitol* of the *Batavian* Commonwealth, and not raſhly to deliver up that great *Palladium*, *viz.* The vaſt Bank of Riches therein, on which ſeemed to depend the ſtate of *Europe*, into the Hand of a Prince, who wanted only Manacles from thence, to enfetter her; and whoſe Courage to attack (ſaid the ſame Citizen, and I have heard the *French-men* themſelves mention his Name with many *Elogiums*) depended ſolely on the Fears, which the Artifices of his treacherous Correſpondents within their Walls, more then the Noiſe of his Armies, had raiſed among them; and conſequently on the leaſt ſhew of Unity and Reſolution among them, would ſink with their Cauſe; nay, continued he, rather then fall into the Hands of him, who (however his Emiſſaries here have repreſented him ſlily to the contrary) will aſſuredly prove a mercileſs Tyrant unto us, let us call in the Sea it ſelf, whom we ſhall find a much more merciful Element, to our aſſiſtance: And this, my Lord, being ſeconded by the *Dutch* Mob,

Mob, now aſtoniſhed and confounded with the loſs of their Country by Land, and oppoſed by two the moſt potent Kings in the World by Sea; they in a Rage, aſſaſſinated the two *De Wits*, as the Betrayers of their Country, and Cauſers of that ſame Calamity, and then depoſed the States, who they looked upon to be of the *Loveſtein* or *De Wits* Faction; and then reſtored the Prince of *Orange*, now at Age, to the hereditary Authority and Command of his Anceſtors; which ſudden and violent Proceedings, did more then ſtun the *French* King; but after a little recovery, and finding that his Friends in *Amſterdam* and other places yet unconquered, were diſpoſſeſt of all Authority, and that now the Prince of *Orange* managed all the Affairs of the State with Penſionary *Fagel*; he made an Eſſay, to catch the Prince in a Net, he with his Council, had finely ſpun for him, by propoſing to make him Soveraign of the *United Provinces*, under his, and his Brother of *England*'s Protection: I never could learn who it was they employed to the Prince upon this occaſion, and what Arguments they induced to gain his Conſent, tho' they may be eaſily gueſt at; they being never entred into their Cabinet Minutes; and perhaps it was becauſe they met with ſuch a Succeſs upon the Prince, as they did not in the leaſt expect, whoſe Anſwer was, *He would never betray a Truſt repoſed in him, nor ever ſell the Liber-*

ties

ties of his Country, that his Anceſtors had ſo long defended, &c. I have not opportunity to go on in the Proſecution of this Subject at preſent, but hope in my next, to make it up to your Lordſhips content; and ſo remain, *My Lord,*

Paris, Nov. 3. 1678. *Your Honours moſt obedient Servant.*

LETTER XXX.

Of the Embaſſy ſent by King Charles II. *upon the Advice of the Earl of* Shaftsbury, *to Expoſtulate with the* French *King, and ſtop his further Proceedings.*

My Lord,

I Have in my laſt to your Lordſhip, taken notice of the Surprize and Indignation the *French* King and his Council were put to, at the Revolution in *Amſterdam*, and elſewhere in the *United Provinces*; and how much his Correſpondents had deceived him, in aſſuring him, that all was his own in that wealthy City, and that there ſeemed but that one place to perfect and ſecure the reunion of all the *Belgick Provinces*, that renounced part of the ancient *Gallia* to his new *French-Burbonian* Empire (as he was adviſed by ſome to call it) and now to ſee his victorious Chariot in its full ſpeed, and almoſt at the end of all its Career, receive a check by the reſolution of one puny Burgher,

er, and withall that his Attempts upon the young Prince of *Orange* proved abortive; however, conſidering he was Maſter of all the places round about, and no Power then on the Continent, being in a poſture to come to its Relief, and that tho' the Prince of *Orange* were reſtored to the Command of his Anceſtors, he had as good almoſt to have been without, in the Poſture his own, and the Affairs of the State were then in; and confiding ſtill in the Influence of thoſe of his Cabal within, who were Men of greater Eſtates and Eminence (tho' at preſent laid aſide) then that obſcure Burgher, and thoſe whom the Mob had advanced to their Offices; and beſides, that the little Vigour that ſeemed to be infuſed into the drooping Spirits of the Citizens, by the foreſaid Revolution and Remonſtrances, would quickly vaniſh, and be interpreted as a flaſh of unſeaſonable and inſignificant Raſhneſs, at the ſight of his formidable Troops, and diſappear like Smoak before the *Sun*, to whom his flatterers had taught him to compare himſelf; it was reſolved, the place ſhould be reduced, if not otherwiſe, by his Arms with all ſpeed, to prevent any interveaning Accidents, that might impede the mighty ſucceſs: But ſeaſonably came another Adventure, that put a new Spoke in the Wheel. For, my Lord, while the *French* Court thought themſelves ſecure of all things on our ſide, as having in their Imagination, not only lulled the

King

King asleep, but the five Persons that made up the Cabal that managed him (and in effect, there were four of them in their Interests) the fifth Man, who was that renowned Statesman and true Patriot, the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, then Lord Chancellor of *England*, whose sagacious Head could penetrate deeper then the rest, and whose Eagle Eyes, the Splendor of those Golden Pieces, streaming in such abundance from that *French Phaeton*, and which had blinded so many others in the like Station, could not dazzle, used all his Efforts to rouse up our King from the heavy slumber of Security, into which *French* Sorcery had cast him; and highly to represent to him in their true Light, the fatal Consequences to his Crown, Dignity and Interest, attending the taking of that City, and the total Conquest of the *Hollanders*, tho' now his Enemies, by any other, at least then *English* Hands, and above all, by the Arms of *France*, and constrained him by the *Cogency* of his Reasons, and vigorous Representations of a speedy and brisk Interposition, prest home with an Importunity, that would admit of no Evasion, nor allow any Repose, but immediately to dispatch away an Embassy to divert the impending Stroke: But, tho' my Lord, by his pressing Eloquence, gained his Point, in regard to the Embassy in it self; yet your Lordship very well knows, that two of the three Persons employed in it, *viz.* the Duke of

of *Buckingham*, and the Lord *Arlington*, were deeply engaged in the *French* Intereſt, and ſeemed by their carriage at the *French* Court then at *Utretch*, rather as if they had been ſent to promote the *French* Conqueſts, then any way to obſtruct them; and becauſe they knew my Lord *Halifax* was honeſt, they did all they could to oppoſe his appearing and acting conjunctly with them, tho' included in the ſame Commiſſion, in as ample a manner as themſelves, under pretence of his coming a day or two after them to the *Hague*: And when they could no longer keep him from acting, went privately to the *French* Camp, under ſham-Pretences, and had Negotiations of their own on foot: But tho' my Lord *Halifax*'s Vigilancy, Conſtancy, and Reſolutions, could not balk theirs and the *French* King's Deſigns, yet it put them hard to it, and they ſaw plainly, that it was the King's mind they ſhould deſiſt: However, the *French* Court never forgot that noble Lord, the adviſer of the Embaſſy; whereof I ſhall not forget to give your Lordſhip account in due place; but do intend in my next, to tranſmit the Subſtance of the Conſultation held by the *French* King, upon this unexpected Embaſſy; and ſo wiſhing your Honour all happineſs, remain,

Paris, June 14. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,
your devoted Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXXI.

An account of the Council held by the French *King upon the Embaſie from* England, *with the reſolves thereupon and methods propoſed to elude it.*

My Lord,

UPON ſo tickliſh and unexpected an Occaſion as was mentioned in my laſt, a Council Extraordinary was held, wherein the major part after a ſerious and warm Debate, were for their Kings purſuing his firſt Reſolution, maugre all the Conſiderations to the contrary, and to venture even a rupture with *England*, if it could not be avoided otherwiſe, rather than quit ſo dainty a morſel, and loſe an opportunity never to be again retrieved of gaining a Poſt from whence he might eaſily defie all the Force of *Europe*: But however to carry on things the more fairly for his Reputation, and to accompliſh if poſſible his deſign without a preſent War with *England*, whoſe Friendſhip was as yet more convenient than its Hate, they adviſed him to diſpatch away immediately ſome acceptable and able Miniſter to our Court, with ſtore of *Allamode* Lenitives to that Sore, and to return an Anſwer in the mean while to our Embaſſadors full of ſpecious pretences and promiſes of intended advantage to their Prince and Country by that very expedition they were ſent

ſent to diſwade, and to tell them that his *Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty* having reduced his and their Maſters common Enemy ſo low as they now ſaw them, and ſuch a panick Terror having ſeized the People even of the Capital City, that if it were made uſe of in time, muſt needs make the Town an eaſie prey to him if he would advance towards it; and ſo in one Action put a glorious and happy end to the War, to the inеſtimable advantage of the two Kings, and the ſaving much Time, Blood and Treaſure, being unwilling ſo precious and irrecoverable an opportunity ſhould be loſt both for his Brother and himſelf of ſubduing that Seven-headed *Hydra* of Faction and Rebellion, that *Republick* ſo hateful and adverſe to Kings by one lopping off with an expeditious blow, for want of complying with ſo rare an offer of Providence; he was reſolved to follow the Call of Heaven and Victory; but withal did aſſure them on the Word of a great King, and the Honour he ſo much valued himſelf upon, that his Brother their Maſter had no reaſon to take umbrage, nor ſhould have cauſe to conceive any regret at that demarch of his; for that his reaſon for attacking it was that his Arms were there ready to lay hold of the opportunity and their Maſters was not, and his intention in taking it, was only to keep it for him till a convenient Garriſon might be ſent from *England* to take Poſſeſſion of it;

when he would with all ſincerity render it to him undamaged, and without poling or peeling the Inhabitants whom he ſhould always conſider as the Subjects of his Brother of *England* and Ally; And if that Anſwer would not content them, than to Reply that what he deſigned was too neceſſary and of too much importance for both Kings, and particularly for their Maſter, that if he were not impoſed upon, or were but rightly informed of his own Intereſt in that Expedition, he would be ſo far from oppoſing it, that he would rather incourage him to it; and therefore could give no other return to their Inſtances, but deſire them either to wait for an Anſwer to the Premiſes from their Maſter or go home and report what he had Remonſtrated, not doubting but his Envoy whom he had ſent to *England* ſince their coming, would by that time they returned have ſo well ſatisfied his Majeſty, that he would perfectly acquieſs in the Reſolutions he had taken for both their Profits, return him thanks for the ſame, and fully repoſe in the ſincerity he had always found in him: And therefore aſſuring himſelf as much of his Majeſties approbation of what he deſigned upon his better information of it, he ſhould without loſing any time puſh on his Advantage while he might; and as for the Envoy he ſent for *England*, they adviſed him he ſhould be diſpatch'd away immediately upon the Councils

cils riſing, with the Inſtructions they ſhould then concert before another Audience were given to our Embaſſadors, that he might have time to tell his Tale firſt before any Letters or Adviſe could come from ours: *Alas!* ſaid they, *this Embaſſage is none of the King of* Great Britain's *doings, but a meer force put upon him by the importunity of ſome Popular Grandees whom he dares not diſpleaſe for fear of the People; let Your Majeſty but ſend a Sop to them to take off their mouthing, and then ply the King with the uſual Flatteries and Proteſtations and the forementioned pretences of promiſes ſeaſoned with a little Salt of* Peru, *and you need not doubt but his Credulity and Indigency is great enough to ſwallow the Bait; And as for what he may fear from thoſe Popular Men, it may be ſuggeſted that the taking of that Town only will break the neck of their Faction, and when it ſhould be put into his hands, which if he durſt confide in a Prince whom he had reaſon to believe by the unconteſtable proofs he had given him juſt before the War of his inviolable Friendſhip for him, ſhould be as he promiſed, it would quiet all mutining Spirits again in a moment; he is, Credulous enough,* ſaid they, *to believe ſhams leſs artificial and leſs alluring than theſe, and if after all, our Flatteries ſhould not prevail alone, our Menaces will; for tho' he be a little fearful of the Reſentments of his People for cleaving to us, he is more of us, for he fears their Hate, yet durſt not truſt their Affection,*

whereas he durſt not provoke our Hate, but truſt our Friendſhip as the only private fence, we have taught him to think he has, againſt their Diſcontents; And therefore a final threatning from your Majeſty, telling him, if he knows not his own Intereſt, your Majeſty knows it, will hector him out of any ſtiffneſs, the fear of them may put him upon againſt your deſigns at leaſt: Tho' you cannot with his Embaſſadors here, you may by yours with him prolong the Conteſt long enough to gain time ſufficient to effect your Work; For thoſe Inhabitants, ſoon growing out of hopes of Succour from England *as well as* Germany; *they will relapſe into a more violent Fit of deſpair than ever and yield. After whoſe acquiſition it will be eaſie for your Majeſty to banter the* Engliſh *out of their pretences, or ſhould they be ſo foolhardy as to aſſert them by Arms, it will be eaſie for your Majeſty to beat them off the ſeas, and make their Country the next Stage of War, when* Germany, Spain *and* Italy *deprived once of the* Low-Country *paſſages, tho' never ſo concerned at the Spectacle, would not be able to help them; And therefore your Majeſty,* continued they, *need not be awed by any fear of diſobliging them for taking in what places by Arms or pollicy you can, eſpecially this on which ſo much depends the Conqueſt of the reſt, which once accompliſhed, when the* Engliſh *ſhall demand the ſhare allowed them by the Treaty, and by your Majeſties repeated Promiſes; what plauſible banter will it be to tell them, they have*

have little reaſon to expect a ſhare in the acquiſition of others, who when they might, have made none themſelves, but rather have been prejudicial to the Common Intereſt by their unſeaſonable and unreaſonable diviſions, of and in which, &c. ſaid they, *we have ſown ſuch ſeeds as cannot fail production; and in their great Council of Parliament,* &c. That the *true purport of the Treaty was only Conditional, allotting each Party ſuch and ſuch a ſhare in the Countries projected to be Conquered, upon ſuppoſal that they ſhould attack and ſubdue each of them their reſpective proportion; and therefore that it was ridiculous in them to pretend a claim, who had made no Conqueſt, not ſo much as of any one place, and had been ſo far from landing on the Enemy, that they had not done their duty at Sea. And in fine,* added they, *to compleat the Farce, how ſpecious a Concluſion will it be, to aſſure them however that your* Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty *to manifeſt to them how religiouſly punctual you are to your promiſes, will take no advantage of their failures or their Misfortunes, but provided they will give your Majeſty a reaſonable conſideration for the Expences of Blood and Treaſure you have been at in the taking and keeping of them, for them in a tenable condition; you are ready to order them Livery and Seizing of them according to the Letter of the Treaty and your own repeated promiſes, for which pretended expences,* perſued they ſtill, *your Majeſty may inſtruct your Miniſters to demand ſuch*

exceſſive Sums, as you know they neither can nor will disburſe. And as for their aſſerting their claim by a War, after your ſeizing of Amſterdam *that great Magazine of the dead riches of* Europe *and both* Indies, *and of Warlike Proviſions both by Sea and Land, and the total reduction not only of that Potent* Republick *of which it was the Head, but likewiſe of the living ſources of Treaſure both in the* Eaſt *and* Weſt, *by making their great Fleet, Merchants, Colonies, and Commerce all your own, which cannot but clear your way to* Guinea *and* Peru; *What ſtomack,* ſaid they, *can the* Engliſh *after this have, by taking of their Outworks the* Low-Countries, *debarr'd from all aſſiſtance from* Italy, Spain, *and* Germany, *if in their right ſenſes to have recourſe to Arms. Alas! what power to attempt any thing but what will move your pitty more then your indignation; nay rather what greater Ambition will be left them than to Court your Majeſty by an eaſie and voluntary ſubmiſſion to receive them as Honourable Tributaries, thereby to retain a ſhadow of their Ancient Government and Liberty, without incurring the certain deſtiny, by an impotent and fruitleſs reſiſtance, of being forcibly reduced into a Province of your growing Empire; to which the* Roman Eagle *it ſelf abandoning the defenceleſs Towers of* Auſtria, *ſhatterred both by* Eaſtern *and* Weſtern *Hurricanes, for the better preſerving and re-eſtabliſhing its Ancient State and Majeſty, will then be glad to retire.*

This

This may be your Majesties method, continued they, *to preserve Peace a while with* England, *or stave off at least the War, till your present grand design be accomplished; and these your Measures how to deal with them afterward, in case they suffer you quietly to atchieve this important Conquest; But should we be able by no Art to buoy up the King of* Englands *Spirits against the head-strong opposition of the popular party about him; nor so much as to delay a Rupture, nor to hinder that violent People from immediately declaring against us; yet all considerations on all sides duly weighed and perpended, it will be much greater and more certain advantage to your Majesty, and of much less dangerous consequence to your Affairs in general to venture a War with them now about a Town, which with all they can do, they cannot assist time enough to rescue from you; and by whose acquisition against their wills you will not only be quit of all their Pretentions, but gain power to crush them too at pleasure; than after you have for fear of them quitted so great a Conquest, to have a War in a little time after both with them and all the rest of* Europe, *not only without those advantages, but with the greatest disadvantage imaginable, as without setting on work an hundred expensive and troublesome Intriegues you now will have no need off, your Majesty will certainly have then, notwithstanding all your complyance to them if you quit your present Design, For,* said they, *suppose upon your*

proceeding to the Expedition in queſtion, the Engliſh *declaring a ſudden War againſt you ſhould cauſe the* Amſterdamers *to aſſume courage enough to repulſe your Arms, how eaſie were it for your Majeſty upon advantageous Terms to clap up a ſudden peace with thoſe diſtreſſed People, and by returning out of their Country to paciſie all thoſe powers now preparing againſt you, and then with your whole Force to fall upon the* Engliſh *with which perhaps too the* Hollanders *would eaſily be perſwaded to joyn theirs, as glad to ſee themſelves delivered ſo unexpectedly, their old Enemies drawn ſo genteely into the Snare, and ſo fair an occaſion put into their hands to revenge themſelves on that Rival Nation for joyning with us againſt them, with which it will not be amiſs however by your Envoy to threaten the* Engliſh *King; Nay and how probable it is that the popular party in* England *would on that occaſion favour the* Hollanders *to keep down Abſolute Power, and to preſerve their Religion againſt the aſpiring Duke and Popery; all which they ſtrongly feared would have come in at once upon them after the ruine of that Proteſtant State? At leaſt,* ſaid they, *how effectual may it be to let you Majeſties Envoy add that threatning amongſt the reſt to the King of* England. *But Alas!* continued they, *it is but a matter of meer Speculation never likely to come to paſs; that any thing the* Engliſh *can do at preſent ſhould, as the poſture of their Affairs are now in, hinder your Majeſties taking that*

City,

City, whose Richest and Eminentest Citizens being already gained to your Party, the very terror of your Majesties Navy and the appearance of your Forces, will quickly open it unto you; notwithstanding the weak opposition of a Party formed in a tumultary way among a Mobile by a few particular, biggoted Citizens, who at the noise of your Cannon would immediately turn to the other extream and cry out, as loudly for a surrender.

And as for the English, said they, *our Emissaries have been so busie and so successful at* Amsterdam, *that it can never be thought, what ever good Opinion they may have of the People of* England, *that they can be induced to confide so much in their King, whom they have so personally and so grosly affronted in all that can be sensible to a Prince, and whom they know so much* Frenchified, *as to think he can heartily intend them any good; or that they can expect any milder terms of subjection under him, either in respect of Religion or Property, then under your Majesty; Since they are daily, and by very good tokens assured that he is privately advanced already towards* Rome *as far as the other, and waits only the subversion of their* Republick *to assume every whit as Despotical and Tyrannical a Dominion over his Subjects in both respects as the* French *Monarch had over his; or in fine, that they had so great an opinion of his Power in that Posture of Affairs as to think him able to rescue them time enough, or remove the* French *from them*

if he went really about it: And consequently that in the great Consternation they then were in, and the little hopes they had of the slow Forces of Germany; *and the distrust they lay under both of their own strength and of the Faith and Power of the* English, *together with the Apprehension they were possest with, of losing the great Riches they had there by an obstinate resistance which they might secure by a timely composition; they would undoubtedly submit upon the first Summons of his Majesty or any famed General of his at the head of a considerable Body of Men, especially when his Majesty should offer them such advantageous Conditions, as they advised him to do, the more effectually to avert them from all thoughts or temptations to close with* England, *and to propose to them: That matters of* Religion *and* Commerce *should remain in the same state; As also the* Priviledges *of their* Companies, Collonies, &c. *That they should have the priviledges of* Natives, *in all the other Dominions of* France, *with many other Sugar-Plums; To the exact performance of which it was not to be questioned but they would easily give credit, since to that time his Honour was entire, and had no ways been stained with any gross Infidelities, and that the Protestants, then enjoyed no small Liberty in his Dominions. And when you shall be in the possession of the place, all these specious promises need not hinder your Majesty,* said they, *from seizing however as much of their Treasure as your Interest shall direct you*

to

to take, nor from putting ſuch other reſtraints upon them as you pleaſe, for which they gave him ſuch expedients as were thought proper and neceſſary for to elude the advantageous and ſpecious Conditions, by which their over-credulous Inhabitants were to be wheedled out of their precious Liberties.

In the laſt place they laid before him the many and grand Inconveniences, which by letting ſlip ſuch an advantageous Juncture would unavoidably follow, which they repreſented, as much more in number, and of vaſtlier greater Conſequence, than thoſe that could poſſibly arrive from his purſuing it; *For*, urged they, *if your Majeſty let go this Opportunity, It will not only be ſaid of you, as of the Great* Hannabal, *that you know how to get, but know not how to proſecute a Victory, but the ſame Fate will likewiſe befall you; This deſpiſed and almoſt oppreſſed Enemy will recover Strength and Courage, the* Germans *and the Houſe of* Auſtria *will come into its ſuccour, you muſt quit your preſent Conqueſts to oppoſe them, and your preſent Allies on the Continent will forſake you; If you be beaten how diſadvantageous and perhaps fatal muſt the event needs be to you, and if you overcome, yet how far will you be from a compleat Conqueſt, or from making that advanced and aſſured progreſs towards the erection of a new Empire; as you would do in the taking that one place, whoſe Gates tho' they belong but to one City, would let you into the Poſſeſſion of*

the

the most valuable parts of the Earth, and furnish you with the nerves of War, which thereby would be cut off from the rest of the World. I was not willing to give your Lordship an account of this Consultation by piecemeals, and that has made me so tedious, who am,

Paris July 2. 1678. N. S.

My Lord,

Your Honour's to serve You.

LETTER

LETTER XXXII.

Of the Confederacy entered into for the defence of Holland, *of the Prince of* Orange's *ſucceſs againſt* France, *and of the Methods uſed by the* French *to hinder the King of* England *to make Peace and joyn with the* Dutch, *by removing my Lord* Shaftsbury *from being Chancellor*, &c.

My Lord,

THere was hardly a Prince on the Earth worſe ſerved than our King and paid more, no leſs than Three Embaſſadors to make up the Embaſſy mentioned in my laſt ſave one to your Lordſhip, and yet Two of the Three concurring with the *French* deſignes to the ruine of *Holland* firſt, and ſo conſequently their own Native Country next; ſo that the poor *Hollanders*, as your Lordſhip may well remember, were forced to ſave their Country from the *French* (who purſuant to the laſt adviſe were ready to devour it) by loſing it in the Sea, in breaking down the Dikes the laſt extremity and the only remedy they had left them; for this gave them time to think of their Affairs, and this firſt brought the Elector of *Brandenburg*, then the Emperor, and

and at laſt the King or Queen Regent of *Spain*, as apprehenſive of the common danger to all of them in general by the *French* ſubduing the *Dutch Provinces*, to enter into a mutual League for their defence; and by their Conjunction, The Prince of *Orange* who had all this time ſtruggled with the hardeſt deſtiny that could be, and lay neglected by his Uncles as if they had no ſhare either in his good or bad Fortunes, recovered ſeveral of the Upland Towns in almoſt as little time as they had been taken by the *French*, and like another *Scipio* having joyned *Montecucucli* the Emperors General in the dead of Winter, and ſo carrying the War out of his own Country Beſieged and took *Bon*, the Reſidence of the Elector of *Cologn*, and thereby did cut off the Comunication between *France* and *Holland*; whereby the *French* were neceſſitated not only to quit their Conquered Towns by heaps, but he alſo opened a paſſage for the Imperial Forces to joyn the *Dutch* and *Spaniſh*; But tho' neither the ſence of his own true Intereſt, nor the Tyes of Conſanguinity to the Prince of *Orange* could induce our King to come to the reſcue of *Holland*, which notwithſtanding the Princes bravery and ſucceſs was ſtill but in a pitiful plight, as having but newly recovered their drowned Country; yet the *French* had an incurable Jealouſie of him, the remembrance of the forementioned interpoſition by

by his Embaſſy was ſtill freſh in memory; And as that fell out when they leaſt expected any ſuch thing, ſo they conſidered a Peace might be ſtruck up in as ſudden and ſurprizing a manner, and therefore they ſet all their Engines on work to hinder it if poſſible, and in the firſt place knowing that great Perſon who had the influence over the King to procure ſuch an Embaſſy, and might alſo by the ſame Arguments induce him to make a much hardier ſtep, and force him at laſt in ſpight of his own inclinations, or of *French* Menaces, as well as of *French* Charmes, not only to a Peace with *Holland*, but even to a War againſt them; They therefore left nothing unеſſay'd, or ſtone untur'd to get him to diſpoſe of the Chancellor's place, tho' it was well known the King himſelf upon a certain occaſion had given his Teſtimony of his being the wiſeſt Subject he had in his Dominions, and ſeemed at that time to value him accordingly: I cannot poſitively inform your Lordſhip, by which of their Inſtruments it was done, for I never could find it was inſerted in the Minutes; but I have heard it generally diſcourſed at the *French* Court, that they ploughed in this Affair with the Heifer they had formerly preſented the King withal, and that the Duke alſo whom they by their Emiſſaries iritated againſt him,

him, to whom they alledged that he had taken notice of his keeping off of late from the Proteſtant Worſhip, and talked too liberally thereof, not without ſome Expreſſions boding much danger to his Highneſs, and even levelled at putting him by the Succeſſion it ſelf, gave an helping hand thereto.

But for all they had gained ſo conſiderable a point, as the removal of the Chancellor, yet fearing ſtill the worſt, they never left off their former apprehenſions; And therefore their Miniſters ſtill continued with utmoſt Application to purſue their Game, both by magnificent Promiſes and Offers of Money, and ſome Menaces *a la ſourdene*; but with inſtructions after all their induſtry, if they could not ſucceed in obſtructing the peace, yet not to fail to elude it, which how well they ſucceeded in the firſt for a time, and when that could not be warded off no longer, how much more fortunate ſucceſs they have had in the latter I ſhall endeavour to make your Lordſhip acquainted with at another time, when I hope they may be no leſs grateful to your Honour's guſto, from him who deſires to approve himſelf to be,

Paris Octob. 9. 1678. My Lord,

Your Obedient Servant

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

Of the Negotiating a Marriage between the Duke of York *and the Princeſs of* Inſpruck *in* Germany; *How that Match came to be broke off; and how the* French *gain'd their Point in Marrying the Princeſs of* Modena *to him.*

My Lord,

THings continuing in the ſame poſture I mentioned in my laſt to your Lordſhip, between *England* and *France*, the latter having the full aſcendency over our King and Court, to keep them from the Peace with *Holland*, and to enter into a War in Conjunction with the reſt of the Confederates againſt them; and the Duke of *York* happening to be a Widower, who was entirely, as they thought, in their Intereſts at this time, which was the year 1673. there was an Intrigue ſtarted up and carried on, that in all appearance was ready to break the Thread of all their Contrivances, and irrecoverably to overturn all theyhad been ſo long and with ſo much pains about; but another as lucky a hit interpoſed timely in their Aid, which ſalved all their drooping

Intereſt in our Court again ſounder than ever, tho' like the Beaſt in the *Apocalypſe*, it ſeemed to have received its deadly wound; For when a Negotiation was now not only ſet on foot, but in a manner concluded, for Matching our Duke with a Princeſs of the *Auſtrian* Family, an Alliance which would certainly have broke the neck of all Leagues with *France*, and make *England* once more the Ballance between thoſe two mighty Powers; I ſay, juſt when a Match was concluded with a Princeſs of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and nothing ſeemed remaining to the accompliſhing of it, but celebrating the Eſpouſals, and bringing over the Lady into *England*, to remain the gage of a cloſe and laſting Alliance, between the Royal Stem of *England*, and that Illuſtrious and Potent Houſe; and the *Monſieur* at biting his Nails for ſpite to ſee his Intereſt there deſperate and paſt retrieval; it moſt luckily happened to him, that in that very interim the Empreſs died, and the Emperor coming to want a Conſort, and finding no other worthy his Choice, according to the uſual practice of the *Auſtrian* Families, whoſe Branches intermarry frequently with one another, he retain'd the Lady for himſelf; and ſo defeating our Prince of his Spouſe, and putting of him in a new queſt, gave the *French* an opportunity to proffer him a Female, who they knew deſcended from a right Intriguing Breed, and would be ſure to do their Work through-

throughly, and thereby not only renew, but make ſure againſt all Events that Alliance that hath ſince proved ſo pernicious to all *Europe*, and ſo vexatious to the one, as well as to the other of our Princes: This Match they knew might be of great importance to them, not only as to the promoting their Ambitious Ends in *England*, but in *Italy* too; and if they could once enſnare the Duke into it, would as fixedly tie him to their Intereſts, as it would infallibly loſe him every where elſe, and engage not only the Proteſtant Subjects of theſe Kingdoms, but even all the other Powers of *Chriſtendom*, as well of the Roman Communion as the Reformed, to oppoſe his future Elevation, that ſo he might be wholly dependant upon them; She being a Lady, not only *Italian* by Nation, but a Relation of the Pope, (and in that Quality moſt odious to *England*) and alſo of the late Cardinal *Mazarine*; and in a word, of a Prince Penſionary to the *French*, and an adopted Daughter of *France*; which laſt Quality they honoured her with, to render her compleatly hateful to all the World, beſides moſt liberally paying her Portion, Penſioning the King, and greaſing the Miniſters to have the Parliament Prorogued, that in the interim the Match might be huddled up with all the precipitation imaginable, for fear upon the leaſt delay, by contrary Sollicitations from the *Auſtrians*,

or any other Potentates abroad, (or any black) and grumbling Clouds at home, the unſtable King might be over-perſuaded or frighted from letting his Brother go on with that deſtructive Alliance. Theſe, *my Lord*, were their Contrivances and Precautions upon this Subject; and they ſucceeded ſo well in their Endeavours, that mauger any Reaſons the King might have to the contrary, or any Oppoſition made by ſome few then about him, that Match was concluded, from which *England* may in a very great meaſure date the commencement of her enſuing Grievances; and which, according to the Parliament's Prediction of it, cauſed ſuch terrible Earthquakes in the three Nations already, and God Almighty alone knows what the dire Effects may be, and where things will terminate at long run, though it may at the ſame time prove better than our fears. For after it was once done, they cared not what Storms it produced amongſt us; for if the endeavours of an Alliance cemented with ſo charming a Female, unwearied in enticements, could not allure, nor the ſugared Profeſſions of a conſtant Amity and Protection, beſides the powerful Spells of continual Supplies of Money, engage ſufficiently; yet they were confident the troubles it would cauſe, would neceſſitate him for Self-preſervation to keep cloſe to their Intereſts, and to be content perhaps for the preſervation of the reſt, to give

give them part of his Eſtates, whenever it ſhould ſucceed, and make them Executors of his Will; or at leaſt, at all Adventures, keep up ſuch Diviſions, as by the care they would take to balance the reſpective Parties concerned in them, would both divert and diſable the Nation from exerting their Reſentment againſt them to any great purpoſe. Theſe, *my Lord*, were the Improvements they propoſed to make by this Match, and herewith I ſhall conlude, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Aug. 30. 1678.

Your Lordſhip's

very humble Servant.

LETTER XXXIV.

Of the Peace made between England *and* Holland, *in* February 167¾. *The Motives to it, and the* French *Methods to elude it, by retaining the* Iriſh *ſtill in their Service, with our Courts connivence.*

My Lord,

I Have formerly taken notice to your Lordſhip of the Methods and Precautions the *French* uſed to keep our King from making a Peace with the *Dutch* States; and how they made it their buſineſs to diſpoſſeſs all thoſe, and particularly my Lord *Shaftsbury*, of the King's Ear and Favour, who were concerned for His and the Nation's Intereſt, by promoting ſuch a Peace; but though they prevailed therein, as well as in that of the Duke's Marriage with a Female of their own chuſing; yet *my Lord*, you know very well, they failed to ſtem the Tide that broke in as a conſequent upon that Vote of the Commons, *Octob.* 31. 1673. That conſidering the Condition the Nation was then in, they would not take into further conſideration any Aids or Charges upon the Subject, except it did appear the obſtinacy of the *Dutch* ſhould render

render it neceſſary, *&c.* For the *French* Emiſſaries had taught the King and his Junto their Leſſon, to wit, to give out that the *Dutch* were full of Sullenneſs and Obſtinacy, and would come to no honourable Terms, and therefore there was a neceſſity of further humbling of them; but now the Court of *England* were as haſty to make up the Peace with *Holland*, as e're they were to declare War againſt them, which was concluded by the 9th of *February*, 167¾ but though the *Dutch* came hereby to enjoy Peace with us at Sea, yet they found the pernicious Effects of the Valour of the *Engliſh* Troops which continued in the *French* Armies, and gained them ſeveral Victories after that Peace; till upon the earneſt and repeated Inſtances, both of the Foreign Powers concerned, and of our own Parliament, ſome redreſs was given to that Grievance, but never a total one; a Proclamation being obtained for recalling our Forces from the *French* Service, which yet was conſtrued not to extend to the *Iriſh* Nation, who after that, by that foul connivence of our King, not only continued there in Bodies as formerly, but drew over Recruits from time to time, and were moſt highly cheriſhed and careſſed, as indeed were the *Iriſh* Nation all along, with a ſenſible difference above the *Engliſh* and *Scotch*, eſpecially when a War was expected with us; they having a ſe-

cret deſign upon that Kingdom by one Method or other, ever ſince their firſt drawing our King into League with them; which they did not obſcurely intimate, when by way of encouragement they would now and then ſay to the *Iriſh Roman* Officers among them, as likewiſe to other qualified Gentlemen Travellers of that ſame Nation. That the King their Maſter had an eſteem of them above all other Nations, for their Antiquity, Generoſity, and Invincible Conſtancy to their old Religion for above a Century of Years after their Maſters, the *Engliſh* had abandoned it, and that the *Scots* and the *Welſh Britains*, by the contagion of their Example, with ſufficient Derogation from their former unviolated Claims to Antiquity and unconquered Liberty, had done the like; and would aſſure them from him, That the time would come when he would ſhew them marks of his Eſteem, by conferring the Hereditary Guard of his own, and his Succeſſor's Perſons on their Nation, inſtead of the *Scots*, who were now departed from their Intereſts; and that as a Catholick Prince, and the Guarantee of their Treaty with King *Charles*, when in Baniſhment, for reſtoring to them their Eſtates whenever he ſhould be reſtored, he would ſee them righted, and would one day free them from the Tyranny of the *Engliſh* Nation.

But

But notwithſtanding all underhand Compliance of our Court with that of *France*, as our Peace with *Holland* had already diſpleaſed them, This recalling of our Troops, as partially executed as it was, quite put them out of humour; ſo that though they durſt not ſhew their Reſentments too far, for fear of increating the Evil they fretted at; yet they did what they could by allurements to debauch, and by hard Uſage, and all imaginable Diſcouragements, both to deter as many as they could of our Soldiers from paying Obedience to the ſaid Proclamation, and to diſable thoſe who were fixedly bent to return, from being ſerviceable to their King and Country. Among the reſt, mighty Advantages were offered to my Lord *Douglas*, afterwards Earl of *Dunbarton*, to intice him to ſtay; and ſome time after he was gone, upon hearing he had no Preferment under his own King, by reaſon of the ſeverity of our Laws againſt Men of his Perſwaſion, there were very great Rewards propoſed to thoſe they thought had any influence over him, to perſwade him to return, and particularly to my ſelf, in caſe I could find any who could ſo far prevail over him; but all in vain; yet moſt of the *Iriſh* remained to the laſt, and were very ſerviceable at the brisk Action of *Gyrone*, and on ſome other Occaſions; and after the fear of the War with us was blown over by the Tempeſt raiſed among

among our ſelves, whilſt we blinded our Parliament and People by ſeeming to obſerve exactly the Articles of Neutrality agreed upon between our King and them, they for a long time, and even till now, have refuſed to receive any *Engliſh* and *Scotch* Officers and Soldiers to their Service; tho' contrary to their Allegiance to their King and Country, ſeveral of them, and ſome of them *Romans* of tried Affection, proffered themſelves, yet ſtill as many *Iriſh* as preſented themſelves, were readily entertained.

And thus, *My Lord*, Tho' theſe ſubtile Politicians miſſed of their firſt point in hindring our Peace with *Holland*, they ſucceeded but too well in the ſecond, through our Court's weakneſs and baſe Prevarication, which was eluding it, by corrupting our Neutrality, with ſuch a partiality on their ſide, that it was an Honey-Comb to them, whilſt it was but a Spunge of Gall and Vinegar to the Confederates; but foreſeeing that in time this jugling conduct of our King would make all *Europe* murmur, and render his Friendſhip or Mediation ſuſpicious every where; That it would make him odious to his People, and blow into a Flame thoſe old jealouſies that already began to rekindle, and afford ample matter for the Emiſſaries of the Confederates to work upon in our Nations, and conſequently to actuate our People ſo violently to a League with

with the ſaid Allies againſt them, that it would be impoſſible for the King, with Safety, to reſiſt them; (for of his good Will to them, by this time they were pretty confident) they therefore were careful to make a timely Proviſion againſt an inconvenience ſo much dreaded by them, and to endeavour to make uſe of thoſe very Jealouſies, Fears, and Animoſities, whoſe Effects they apprehended, againſt their Adverſaries, by dexterouſly catching them up, like Fireworks before they brake, and returning them back upon our ſelves; and this difficult ſort of Game they managed by ſeveral Stratagems, of which I have neither room nor opportunity to advertiſe your Lordſhip at preſent, but muſt defer it to a proper ſeaſon, and remain, as I truly am,

My Lord,

Paris, July 12.
1678. *N. S.*

Your very humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXXV.

Of the Marqueſs de Ruvigni, *a* French *Proteſtant, his being ſent Embaſſador into* England; *and what the Politicks of* France *were therein.*

My Lord,

I Do not queſtion but your Lordſhip does remember the firſt time of the Marqueſs *de Ruvigny*'s being ſent Envoy from this Court into *England*, which was in the Year *1669.* and which, I think, I have in one of my Letters hinted already; That he was a Perſon very capable for ſuch an Imployment, none can doubt that knew him; but that ever he was choſen by this Court purely for his Capacity, is not to be admitted of. You know, my Lord, the Triple League ſtuck then cloſe in the *French* King's ſtomach, and that the danger Religion was in, as well as Property, from the progreſs of the *French* Arms before in the *Netherlands*, contributed very much to the cementing of ſuch an Alliance, which this Court were labouring tooth and nail to break to pieces, and more eſpecially to get the King of *England* out of it; and to that end, Monſieur *Ruvigny*'s Religion, he being a Proteſtant, highly recommended him: How well he diſcharged his Commiſſion

miſſion then, I need not recount to your Lordſhip, the Event has ſufficiently diſcovered it to *England*, as well as to *Holland*'s ſorrow, and to the no ſmall regret of ſome of thoſe of his own Religion and Fraternity in *France*. It was much about Six years after, that the ſame Marqueſs was entruſted with another Negotiation at the *Engliſh* Court, to no leſs pernicious an end than the former, and I fear at long run with worſe effects: They had, my Lord, beſides the Inſtruments I have formerly mentioned, for ſome time before this, imploy'd ſeveral of their own *Hugonots* in *England*, for the carrying their Intrigues more effectually on among our Proteſtants, which *Hugonots* have been the more forward to pleaſe and obey the Inſtructions of their Prince and his Miniſters, in that they have believed them very compatible with their own particular Intereſts; wherefore they have done all they could to contribute to the Elevation of the Presbyterian Government in our Nation, which, becauſe the ſame with their own, they have naturally had ſome deſire to ſee eſtabliſhed in a Kingdom ſo able to protect them, and which had hitherto been the great impediment to their extirpation in *France*. But to return from this Digreſſion, for which I beg your Lordſhip's pardon, to the Marqueſs *de Ruvigny*, his Inſtructions were to endeavour to poſſeſs the Proteſtants in general in our Nation, which

were

were now, my Lord, full of fears of ſome Secret Deſigns a brewing between the two Kings, in prejudice to their Religion and Civil Rights too, that they needed not to be ſo much concerned at Appearances; that it was far enough from the thoughts of his Maſter to make their King great to his Subjects prejudice; and that he was not ſo zealous for the *Roman* Religion as they might imagine, whereof he was to urge ſeveral inſtances, and to endeavour to throw off all the *odium* from him upon the Pope and the Court of *Rome*, and thereby make them level all their Fears, Jealouſies, and odious Reflections that way; to the end, that by the Royal Church-Party, who had the King's ear, they might ſtill ſecure him further in their Intereſts, and have their helping-hand to carry on thoſe Points they aimed at that way, *viz.* the hindring the Princeſſes matching with the Prince of *Orange*, and the Offenſive Alliance ſo much feared then and now with the *Confederates*, &c. But this was but one Party of the Proteſtants; his Inſtructions alſo were to make a particular Intereſt among the Diſſenters, and ſuch as inclined to them at the ſame time, that in caſe they were defeated in the one, and ſaw no likelihood of ſtaving off the other, they might have them ready prepared to enter the liſts againſt the former; and when War was ready to be declared againſt *France*,

to

to puſh them on, if poſſible, to raiſe a Civil Combuſtion at home, and to inſinuate into them; That the King, his Maſter, was willing privately to aſſiſt them as his Predeceſſor had done theirs in the late Civil Wars upon occaſion, *&c.* in which ſort of Negotiation the Marquis was effectually enough ſeconded by his Countrymen-*Hugonots* then in *England*, and particularly by a man of ſingular Parts and Learning, and exceedingly well verſed in Intriegue, named Monſieur —— but on the contrary, in caſe they ſhould have been able by the Royal Party to have been ſtrong and ſucceſsful enough to gain the two ſaid Points, and hinder both the Match and the War, which was their buſineſs, and is ſtill in part, to oppoſe; they had Orders to have the ſame Diſſenting Party ſtill ready, when King *Lewis*, and his Couſins of *England*, ſhould have had that part of their ends of the Conforming Party, to make uſe of them againſt them, if they would not humour them ſo far as to ſuffer themſelves to be carried quite back to *Rome*.

And becauſe all our Proteſtants, however differently denominated, ſhould take no umbrage at any of this Court's Proceedings, they thought fit once more, to let their *Sun*, as they ſo often term him, to caſt ſome warm beams on the *Hugonot* Party at home, and to entertain them awhile

while with ſome Courtly Smiles, whereby they have deſigned to amuſe our people, and at the ſame time make their own Proteſtants to be their Inſtruments to carry on the Diviſions of thoſe, who, while united, are their only Protectors; for hitherto, while they have had War with the *Confederates*, and chiefly with *Holland*, and are in fear of one with *England*, it being yet out of their power to deſtroy theſe people, they have thought it their intereſt not to exaſperate them, whereby they may be tempted to run over to the Enemy; but rather for the preſent to court them, and make them ſerviceable unto them, by working in the very Mines which in all human probability are deſigned to blow them up withal; I will not intrude —— When Captain *E*—— returns, I ſhould take it as a ſingular favour to receive a line from your Lordſhip, and particularly your Sentiments of our Home-affairs, by him, whom I ſhall expect with utmoſt impatience, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, July 20. 1678.

Your Lordſhip's

moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVI.

Of Prince Lobkowitz's *being diſgraced by the Emperor for Correſponding with the* French *about the Year* 1674.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip cannot be ignorant, that during this Intrieguing in *England*, and Canvaſſing of Deſigns againſt our King and Kingdom, the War went on on this ſide with various ſucceſs; but I find *England* is not the only Country that has been bubbled by the *French* Emiſſaries, and had its Secrets betrayed; I cannot tell any one part of the *Confederates* that have been exempted; but *Germany* more particularly has ſuffered in this kind variouſly, but in nothing ſo remarkably as in the buſineſs of Prince *Lobkowitz*'s being diſgraced ſome time ſince by the Emperor, and which has made ſo much noiſe in the World, that your Lordſhip could not but hear of it: That he correſponded with this Court, there is nothing more certain; though when the buſineſs was once winded, their Emiſſaries thought it adviſeable to be the firſt Rumorers of it, but related the ſame with Particulars ſo extraordinary, that were ſcarce credible, that thereby they

might turn the whole at length into a ridicule: But the way of their Correſpondence with the ſaid Prince, and others in the Empire, was ſo intricate to be fathomed, that 'tis no wonder the matter has been as it were dubious in the World to this day; for little did the Councellors of State, and other Princes and Grandees at the Court of *Vienna* think, that thoſe very *Jews* who ſold them Jewels, Pearl, and other rich Moveables, were wont at the ſame time to bring and carry Letters to the forementioned Prince *Lobkowitz*, and other vile Traytors to the Emperor and Empire; and though theſe ſort of Vermin have been baniſhed the Emperor's Territories and Dominions, yet for filthy Lucre-ſake, to which they are addicted above any Nation or People under Heaven; and to ſerve the *French*, whom above any other they value for the Reaſons I have formerly given your Lordſhip upon another occaſion, They make no ſcruple of aſſuming thoſe Shapes which they outwardly would moſt ſeem to abhor, and whoſe Principles they have disbeliev'd above theſe Sixteen hundred years, I mean Chriſtians, and to this day drive on the old trade.

But our private minutes relating to this Country, and which I have had the opportunity lately a little to inſpect, tell us poſitively, That at leaſt two of the Empe-

ror's

ror's own Confeſſors of the Jeſuitical Order, the much-more dangerous Traytors than any other could be, were guilty of the ſame Crime. The next year after the Diſgrace of this Prince, happened that memorable Succeſs the Emperor's Forces had upon the *Rhine* againſt the *French*; but it is no leſs memorable after ſuch a ſignal Victory againſt the Mareſhal *de Crequi*, *&c.* that *Montecuculi*, the Imperial General, ſhould, after he had beſieged *Sabern*, and was in a fair way to carry the Place, ſo ſuddenly riſe from before it, re-paſs the *Rhine* with his whole Army, and leave the *French*, after all, wholly in poſſeſſion of *Alſatia*, where he might eaſily have Wintered his whole Army: The World were then, and have ever ſince been occaſionally very buſy about the reaſon of this Action, which is very unaccountable to this very day; It was whiſpered then, that *Montecuculi* was ſo far from offering to do this of himſelf, that he had expreſs orders from the Emperor, or at leaſtwiſe from *Vienna*, to do it, and which he obeyed with a great deal of reluctancy and ill-will; but little have the World thought that it was chiefly the influence which Father *la Chaiſe* had over the Emperor's Confeſſor, that produced thoſe poſitive, though moſt noxious Orders; ſo far the Minutes mention that Affair, and no farther. I would not have troubled your

Lordſhip with theſe Foreign Affairs, had I been ſupplied with any that was domeſtick; though, I hope, they are not ſo unacceptable, but that you will freely pardon him who is deſirous to ſerve and honour you to the utmoſt of my power, and remain,

Paris, *June* 20. 1678. N. St.

My Lord,

Your humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVII.

Of the French *Ambaſſador's, the Mareſchal* d'Eſtrades, *and Monſieur* Colbert's *Inſtructions, to attack Sir* William Temple, *and Penſioner* Fagell, *to engage the Prince of* Orange *into the* French *Intereſts, and to promote the Peace.*

My Lord,

THis Court have left no Stone unturn'd, neither in *England* nor *Holland*, in order to the winning of the Prince of *Orange* over to their Intereſts; but they have met with more conſtancy, in him than could be expected from a young Prince of his years, which has plainly manifeſted him to be an Inheritor as well of the Vertues, as of the Fortune of his great Anceſtors; and when they found there was nothing to be done with him directly by any of their own Emiſſaries, they reſolved to attack him in the moſt ſenſible part, by the Miniſtry of two perſons whom they knew he as much valued as any other on this ſide, and they were the *Engliſh* Ambaſſador Sir *William*

Temple, and Monſieur *Fagell* Penſionary of *Holland*. Their Agents, in this hopeful buſineſs, were Monſieur *Colbert*, and the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*, their Plenipotentiaries for the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, who quickly began their attack upon Sir *William*, according to the Inſtructions I find they had given them.

I. To inſinuate ſilly, what a value the *French* King their Maſter had for his Perſon and Character; and that therefore during the courſe of the Negotiation they were to enter upon, they had Orders to make their application to him; That they knew how much he was in the confidence of the King his Maſter, and of his chief Miniſters, and therefore how fitly qualified he was to put the finiſhing-ſtroke to a Treaty he had had the greateſt hand to ſet on foot, and of which he muſt needs reap all the Glory; That he might reckon very much upon the facility of the King their Maſter in that weighty Affair, but yet ſo far ſtill as to have a juſt regard had to the great Succeſſes of his Arms during the War.

II. They were to make a Mien of their being fully poſſeſt of the States great forwardneſs to ſtrike up a Peace, which

their

their Allies muſt comply with, tho' they might for a time retard it; That therefore the only way they could ſee for to give *Europe* Tranquillity, was for the Prince of *Orange* to interpoſe his Authority, which was ſo great with all the Allies, that they were very well ſatisfied in their willingneſs to agree to whatever terms he ſhould be reſolved on, in propoſing the Peace: That therefore in order to bring that grand affair to an happy and ſudden iſſue, it was their Opinion, there was no other or better way for it, than for his Highneſs firſt privately to agree with *France* upon the Conditions, and what each Party's Propoſition ſhould be; and when that was once done, afterwards, in the courſe of the Treaty, which was to be ſuppoſed, could not ſpin out to any great length of time, then to draw all matters by concert together to the ſcope agreed upon between them.

III. To ſeem very confident this Method would do; but that if it ſhould ſo happen that the unreaſonable pretences of the Allies ſhould obſtruct or delay a General Peace, that then the Prince might make uſe of the uſual Temper of the States to bring it to a ſudden iſſue, and make a ſeparate Peace; that if the Prince purſued this method, it would be in his

power to do great things for himself and his Family, for which they were to produce as many instances as they could of parallel cases; And that as for what concerned the Prince's own personal Advantages and Interests, the King their Master had given them full power to assure him, That he might set down his own Conditions, and they should be accepted.

IV. That tho' they had many others to, make these Overtures to his Highness, some whereof they were also darkly to intimate, yet that they were to pursue their Master's Orders, which was to apply themselves to none but to him if he thought fit to charge himself with it; That they were very sensible of the Credit and Confidence he was in with his Highness, and how much deference he had to his Judgment in what concerned the publick Interests of the Allies at that time, as well as his own; and that if he would effectually espouse that Affair, he might reckon upon what he pleas'd himself from the Generosity of the King their Master, whose constant Character it was, never to let the least Merit go unrewarded.

But if it should so fall out, that Sir *William* proved stiff in the matter, as it seems

ſeems he did by the ſequel, they were to turn the ſame Batteries upon Penſioner *Fagel*, with a variation of Phraſe, and Complement agreeable to the Perſon and Circumſtances, and more eſpecially to try what the force of the French Piſtols might effect that way; And if ſo be matters were carried ſo far as that the Prince was found to give any ear to it, then he was to be rounded briskly what mighty things the French King would do for him in relation to his future Greatneſs both in *England* and *Holland*; That for his Principality of *Orange*, he ſhould have it reſtored to him again, or ſuch a compenſation nigher Home, as he would reckon on himſelf; as alſo for his Lands in *Burgundy*, and any other Loſſes, Damages, *&c.* Nay, they were ordered to offer him a very large annual Penſion, if he would have complied: But half theſe things were never actually Propoſed, becauſe the ſaid two Miniſters, and the Prince himſelf more than any, were as ſo many deaf Adders, for they would not ſo much as hearken to the Voice of thoſe dangerous Charmers; A rare Inſtance, *My Lord*, to withſtand ſuch great Temptations, and not to be parallell'd perhaps in any other young Prince of our Age, as it was indeed alſo in the two Miniſters, many of which *England*, at this time, is not over-fruitful

ful of; I wish it were, our Affairs would have been in a better posture than I hear they are, and I dread much worse to come. I pray God avert it, and preserve your Lordship from all Dangers, which shall ever be upon the Heart of,

Paris, Octob. 19. 1678.

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most Humble

and Most Obedient

Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVIII.

A Summary of the French *Methods to get the Dauphin made King of the* Romans.

My Lord,

PErhaps ſince all the noiſe of the *Weſtern* World, at this time is the Affairs of *Hungary*, between the Turks and Imperialiſts, the particulars whereof I need not trouble your Lordſhip with; it will not be amiſs to look a little back, and remark what influence this Court has had upon this War, and what Deſigns they have long ſince hatched under the Covert, not only of this, but all the other Broils they have engaged *Germany* in; I find by *Patin*'s Letters ſo far back as 1671. that it was a matter then not queſtioned, but that there had been Deſigns concerted to have the Dauphin created King of the *Romans*, which made me endeavour after a more particular information in that Intriegue, which at laſt I have found to be inſerted in this manner, according to the diſtinct Heads that follow.

I. All

I. All the Deſigns which they had concerted in the Wars between *England* and *Holland*, for the weakning and deſtroying them, if poſſible, as I have already given your Lordſhip a particular Account of, firſt terminated in that ultimate end, Of advancing the Dauphin as before-mentioned.

II. The former Wars againſt the Confederates was attempted for the ſame Ends in a great meaſure, all their Deſigns againſt the *Spaniſh* Monarchy having a tendency that way.

III. Their unſpeakable Pretenſions in the *Palatinate*, on the behalf of *Madam*, the preſent Dutcheſs of *Orleans*.

IV. All their open and ſecret Practices in *Hungary*, from Arch-Duke *Joſeph*'s being made King there; and by making Overtures to another King underhand, *John Sobieski* by name, to oppoſe the Emperor therein, promiſing their utmoſt Intereſt to get that Crown and Country conferred on him and his Poſterity; rightly judging, that if the Arch-Duke were balked in *Hungary*, it was not likely he ſhould prevail in *Germany*.

5. They have now for the ſame end, their Emiſſaries in *Turkey*, being partly Jews, and partly Jeſuits, who incited the *Turks*

Turks to begin the War, and to push it on even to the Capital of the Empire; and did at the same time, by other Agents, both in *Poland*, and at *Venice*, all they could, that they might hinder those Countries to come into the Confederacy against them, as thinking themselves Cock-sure, that if *Vienna* had once been taken, the *German* Princes would have been in such a Consternation, that as the only remedy, they would have called in the French Power to oppose against such a dreadful inundation of Infidels as would thence have followed; and for which they could have done no less than to have declared the Dauphin King of the *Romans*, and have made the French King Guardian and Protector in the interim, of the Emperor and Empire, especially having the Electors of *Cologne*, *Mentz*, and *Triers*, either inclined for, or over-awed by them, and it being easy in that juncture to have forced the rest: This, *my Lord*, is the substance of what I have found they have projected upon this Subject from time to time, as the circumstances of Affairs gave way and occasion, and nothing more certain than that they have had it all along in their view, to advance the *Dauphin* to that Dignity, which they have hitherto failed in, and I hope ever shall. I did not think to have entred upon this subject, which is also somewhat remote

mote from the Affairs of our own Country, but that the ſight of the forementioned Author excited my curioſity, and the fondneſs of the diſcovery made me alſo fond to communicate the ſame to your Lordſhip, tho' perhaps no very grateful part, which yet I truſt your goodneſs will pardon, in him, who is,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 14. 1684. N. S.

Your very humble,

and obedient Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIX.

Of Don John *of* Auſtria's *being hindred to take upon him the Adminiſtration of the* Spaniſh *Affairs in the year* 1676.

My Lord,

IT's not long ſince I have given your Lordſhip an account of the advances made by this Court towards a Peace; but you know, ſince that, the War went on with various ſucceſſes; and perhaps your Lordſhip has heard of the Buſineſs of Don *John* in *Spain*, How he was prevented from having the Adminiſtration of the Affairs of that Country, by a Letter under the King of *Spain*'s Hand, when he was juſt going to embark for the relief of *Meſſina*; there was at that time an expectation in the Confederates of mighty things to be perform'd by him to their advantage, and the preventing him from a ſhare in the Government, was eſteemed generally to be a *French* Trick, and ſo it was; but I believe the Confederates were guilty of a grand miſtake in their expectation of him; for the French Memoirs ſay, Don *John* was perfectly

perfectly their Creature, and that it was the violent hatred of the Queen Mother of *Spain*, as well as a jealousie to have her own Power invaded, that put him beside the Administration; That it was through his means the Matching of the King of *Spain* with the Emperor's Daughter was put by, and that with the Duke of *Orleans*'s Daughter effected; and that he was going to act mighty things for the *French* Interest, for which he had large Promises made him of their powerful and effectual Assistance to obtain the Crown of *Spain* for himself, after the Decease of the present King, upon condition he should quit the *Spanish* Dominions in the *Indies*, *Low-Countries*, and *Italy*, to the Crown of *France*; for the performance of which, they had sufficient Assurances from him.

I am further to observe to your Lordship from the said Minutes, That they have attributed his Death to a Dose of Poison administred by the order and particular prescription of the Queen-Mother, and that out of a fear she had he would one day Poison the King her Son; and because he had against her Will, been the instrument to make the *French* Match. They further add, how true the one or the other, I will not take upon me to determine, That the Queen Mother's hatred to Don *John* was inveterate; that she had

had attempted once before to have Stab'd him, and at another time to Piſtol him: As for the fore-mentioned Letter from the King of *Spain*, to ſtop the Don's paſſage for *Meſſina*, they ſay it was ſent by the Inſtigation of the Duke de *Medina Celi*, then in the *French* Faction, with an intent to make him miſs that ſtroke, and ſecure him in their Intereſts, by letting him know, that it was by their Intreague he was admitted to Court. I could further enlarge upon this ſubject, did I judge it pertinent or agreeable to your Lordſhip's humour, as I am affraid it is not; and therefore I remain,

My Lord,

Paris, July 2. 1679. N. S.

Your Lordſhip's

moſt humble

and devoted

Servant.

LETTER XL.

Of General Inſtructions given to the French *Agents in* England, *to carry on the* French *Deſigns upon the Duke of* York's *Second Marriage.*

My Lord,

THo' the French Agents in *England* have had addreſs enough to get the Match with the Duke effected according to their Deſires; yet foreſeeing that even this point could not elude the Peace between *England* and *Holland*, they endeavoured to make the beſt advantage they could, by making a Counterpoiſe of it to the ſaid Peace, and to a War we might afterward intend againſt them; as having thereby linked the Duke faſter to them than ever, and laid a ſure foundation for ſuch Diſtractions, both in Church and State, as would give them large opportunity, if not to compaſs all the Deſigns they had upon us, yet at leaſt to ſecure themſelves from any great inconveniency from us; They were not ignorant

rant what good effects ſeveral previous Intreagues of theirs had to our diſadvantage; they ſaw plainly the ſecond *Dutch* War had much more impoveriſhed us than the Firſt; and the ill conduct of it much more ſunk the King's Reputation, beſides the Diviſions in the Fleet, and the Jealouſies and Factions in the Parliament, and among the People, about the Duke's Religion, produced him great diſguſts every day; That the ſhutting up of the *Exchequer* had ruined his Credit; and his Majeſty in proclaiming Liberty of Conſcience by Virtue of his own Prerogative, and his levity afterward in flinching from it ſo unexpectedly, had ſo diſobliged and wounded with Jealouſie the Church of *England*, and all Patriots in Parliament tender of their Priviledges, who held the Peoples Purſe-ſtrings on the one ſide, and ſo incenſed with a freſh Animoſity the baffled Diſſenters on the other; that being over-whelmed with Debts, oppoſed by dangerous and powerful Factions, and yet Bankrupt both of Money and Credit too; they fairly concluded he could have no other recourſe but to them; which odious remedy, they ſuppoſed, would but more and more heighten the mutual Jealouſies, and widen the Breaches, till they grew large enough for them to enter by at long-run upon

ſome part of the *Engliſh* Monarchy, ſo famous hitherto for checking theirs above any other in *Europe*, ſince the Decadency of the *Weſtern* Empire, from riſing to the like exorbitant greatneſs: And now this more than Magical Doſe, theſe Quacks in Policy had given us, began to work every day more and more violently, and with Symptoms more viſible, till almoſt mortal Convulſions followed; The ableſt Stateſman we had at the Helm, the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, was diſcarded for his vehemency in oppoſing the ſaid ſo pernicious Match, (of which I may give your Lordſhip an account another time) and others of the ſame Sentiments diſcountenanced; which by the *French* Agency, begat the Prorogation of the Parliament, dangerous Factions and pernicious Fractions even among the moſt zealous Aſſertors of Monarchy, and beſt affected Friends to the Royal Family; ſo that now imagining this Maſter-experiment of theirs had made way for them to execute what Projects they pleaſed on our Court and People for the future, to loſe no advantage for want of Managers, they began to put their Deſigns in form, which before lay ſomewhat perplext and out of order; to which end they ſent over their Inſtructions to ſome Domeſtick Agents, whom they had choſen and placed on

on purpoſe about the New Dutcheſs, and to their other aſſiſting Miniſters and Emiſſaries, as they thought in that diſpoſition of both Head and Body, of both Princes and People in *England*, could not but ſucceed, and produce in due time, the full effects by their Miſchief-Brooding, and Ambitious Conſultations: And their Inſtructions in ſubſtance were as follows.

They were now to make actual uſe of the ſeveral Parties they had, as I have hinted already, but as yet prepared to make Tools of; and to this purpoſe they were to influence them partly by *French* Jeſuited Inſtruments, partly by *French Hugonot* Agents, and of our own Nation, their Inſtruments were to be.

I. Atheiſts and looſe principled Men, who yet could act rarely well the Zealots for that Religion or Cauſe which they were to Eſpouſe.

II. Such Perſons as they found to be conceited of their Parts, and of Mercenary Spirits.

III. Hotſpurs for Prerogative, and the Church of *England*.

IV. The fierceſt Spirits of the other Factions.

V. Some Bigots of the *Roman* Communion that were *Engliſh*, and particularly thoſe that had been bred up, or had travelled in their Dominions, and were well Jeſuited.

VI. The leading *Iriſh* Papiſts in particular.

VII. Men, Ambitious of Greatneſs, or Idolizers of Money, and that chiefly in *Scotland*.

VIII. Men diſguſtful or diſobliged.

IX. Men of deſperate Fortunes and loſt Reputations.

Of all theſe they were with great confidence to imploy and highly to oblige and flatter ſome, while they were for their turn, and diſoblige others, and then when they had done with them, *vice verſa*, to diſoblige and caſt off thoſe whom they had obliged and ſeemed to have

have truſted; and court, oblige, and receive others who were before diſoblig'd, knowing how to work their Ends by thoſe they diſobliged as well as by thoſe obliged; But yet none of theſe, except ſome of the firſt ſort, were to know the whole of their Deſigns, nor be informed of any thing that looked black or villanous, or ſeemed too directly to aim at the detriment or deſtruction of their Country or Religion, till ſuch time as they had a long trial of their Tempers, and found them fit for ſuch Attempts, or that they had got them firſt into ſuch a Correſpondence, which, tho' in the ultimate intention was not malicious, but only an effect of zeal to their ſeveral Parties, yet would, if diſcovered, be conſtrued reaſonable, and ſo keep them under an hank to them; and then they were to put them on ſuch Barbarities and Villanies as they thought neceſſary for their purpoſe; which if they then refuſed, their Buſineſs was to abandon them, and to imploy ſuch Inſtruments as were as Bankrupt of Religion and Conſcience as of Fortune, and would be deſperately determined to venture at any thing for Money; and by theſe they were to be pretended to be detected as Traytors, and proſecuted as guilty of the Deſigns which they have been only

tempted to, and ſo were to ſerve all People whom they once got within their Toil, as occaſions and their Intereſts did require. But I ſee I have already paſt over the juſt bounds of a Letter, and ſhall therefore only ſubſcribe my ſelf,

My Lord,

Paris, May 5.
1681. *N. S.*

Your Lordſhip's

moſt devoted Servant

LETTER

LETTER XLI.

Containing the Practices of the French Agents, for the amuſement of Foreign Catholicks, while they carry'd on their Deſigns againſt England.

My Lord,

IT would be very ſtrange to think, that the Miniſters of this Court, who have had a hand almoſt in every thing relating to our Nation, ſhould not be concerned in the affair of the *Popiſh Plot*; but it is ſo far otherwiſe, that they have been the chief managers and ſtarters of many things which have ſince come to light; Nay, I am bold to ſay, That the very actions and intentions of almoſt all the Inſtruments of the *Engliſh* Nation, and even of ſome of the *French* themſelves, were very wide, tho' villanous enough, from thoſe of the *Machiavillian* Off-ſpring which ſet them on work. My Lord, you have heard of Father St. *Germain*, and perhaps of Father *Columbiere* too, who ſucceeded him in *England*; theſe were the Perſons, who together with their other aſſiſting Emiſſaries, diſpoſed of Things and Parties in our Nation to favour their Deſigns in reference to

to the ſaid Conſpiracy, and whoſe Inſtructions from Father *La Chaiſe*, were to take upon them to inform and preſs upon the Creatures of the Pope, and Miniſters and Creatures of other Princes of the Roman Communion, but of a different Intereſt from their Maſter's the French King; That for their parts, they were only actuated by a Zeal for the propagation of the Catholick Religion, and the re-union in time of ſo famous a Monarchy to the Church by gentle and peaceable ways and means, and chiefly for the Converſion of our two Princes ſo nearly Related to their King in Blood, and for whom he had ſo much Eſteem and Affection; and that their Maſter being their neareſt Neighbour, and ſeated moſt conveniently to aſſiſt them on occaſion, would with his Purſe promote all he could the quiet Converſion of all ſorts of People, that could be drawn in by the Godly Eloquence of their Miſſionaries, or by the more powerful language of Penſions with ſome, and was heartily willing to ſupply our Princes with what was needful, or might be ſo, to maintain themſelves againſt any Attempts that might be made againſt them, upon the jealouſie or diſcovery of any ſuch deſign, and ſuccour them by a ſufficient Military Force too, in caſe they were likely to be reduced to Extremity by an open Rebellion of their ſtubborn

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and diſcontented Subjects on that account; without once pretending to ſo idle and impracticable a deſign, as ſome of them whom they ſpoke to were tutored to call it, as by that means to go about to make the Crown of *England* feudatory to that of *France*, or to ſtrengthen himſelf with the additional power of *England*, with intent to encroach afterwards upon the Rites and Prerogatives of the Holy See, or give Umbrage to other Temporal Enemies of that Communion, or to draw any other advantage to the *French* from the Alliance of the *Engliſh* Princes, than to be able in the quality of Moſt Chriſtian King, and firſt Son of the Church, to promote the growth of the Holy Catholick Religion in their Realms and Dominions, and make uſe of their Mediation and Friendſhip, to ballance in ſome meaſure the preſent force of ſo formidable a Confederacy, as was lately formed againſt him. That it was a thing ridiculous to think, or once as much as imagin, that whilſt he was in actual War with ſo many conſiderable Powers at that time, he could be ſo ſimple as to attempt *England* by force; or if he were out of War with them, that he could as much as offer at ſo conſiderable an Enterprize upon any pretence whatſoever, without allarming them, or expecting to be oppoſed Vigorouſly by them, as well as by the other *Proteſtant* Powers of *Europe*;

or

or that he could be thought to be ſo raſh as to venture on ſuch a difficult Expedition, whilſt he foreſaw ſo powerful an Oppoſition.

But that indeed upon the happy concluſion of a general and laſting Peace among the Catholick Princes, he would moſt willingly and readily join and concur in any holy League with them, and contribute his full proportion of Forces with theirs, to ſo glorious and laudable a Work, as would be the reſtoration of the Kings of *England* to their priſtine Power and Majeſty, and the Holy See to its former juſt Authority and Juriſdiction in theſe famous Iſlands; which for ſo many former Ages had made ſo conſiderable and profitable a Province of the Roman Church; and therefore they were to deſire and preſs them, not to let any particular Intereſts which they had againſt their Maſter in worldly and ſecular Concerns, prevail with them to go about to miſ-interpret or any ways obſtruct their Converſion of Souls, which could be of no manner of prejudice to them in thoſe other reſpects; but rather readily to concur with their Endeavours in ſo pious and charitable a Work, wherein they ought wholly to lay aſide all diſtinction of Nations or Intereſts, and Cooperate as Members

bers of one Body, and Subjects of one universal Prince Christ Jesus, and his Vice-gerent-General the Pope. With which Arguments and sly Suggestions, they were to wheedle all Foreigners to at least a careless security and unconcernedness about the Affairs of *England*, whilst they play'd their pranks to destroy both our Religion and Government, and make us an Appennage of the *Gallican* Church and Crown; which I pray God, I may never live to see, nor my Country feel; and shall ever do so whilst I am, as I am resolved always to be,

Paris Mar. 11. 1682. *My Lord,*

Your Lordship's Most Humble,

and Most Devoted

Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XLII.

The Arguments of the French Emiſſaries, for the Amuſement of ſome of the Native Papiſts of England, *&c. That their deſigns in regard to the* Popiſh Plot, *might not be prevented.*

My Lord,

HOw far the Subject-matter of my laſt to your Lordſhip hath reliſhed your Palate, I am altogether ignorant, but adventuring for once to preſume its having proved grateful, I have in this, as it were, ſubjoyned thoſe Inſtructions the French Agents have received for the amuſement of the Native Papiſts of *England*, in order to the carrying on of their Deſigns under the covert of the *Popiſh Plot*, againſt our Native Country; To them therefore they were to uſe in ſubſtance the ſame pretences as to the other, but with ſome further additions, as, That the King and the Duke of *York*, were both certainly gained over to the Church of *Rome*; That the moſt Leading-Men of the Kingdom, and the Men of moſt Power and Intereſt both among the Clergy and

and Gentry of the Church of *England*, were Popiſhly inclined, and would without all doubt, come galloping over tantivy to the Church of *Rome*, when it ſhould be a proper time for the King to declare himſelf upon that Head; as being well convinced, that Monarchy and Prelacy had no other way to defend themſelves againſt the reſtleſs and violent practices and efforts of the Sectaries and Republicans, and others their Adherents in the Kingdom, but by ſeaſonably re-uniting with the Roman Catholick Party, from their unjuſtifiable Separation and Schiſm, from whence innumerable, incurable and endleſs Diviſions, Diſtractions and Factions, had proceeded. That for their comfort and ſupport, it was now much otherwiſe than in the late Civil Wars againſt King *Charles* I. That the preſent King of *France* being in a condition to give their now Sovereign King *Charles* the Second, a moſt powerful and numerons Aſſiſtance; and being a moſt Generous Prince, and withal moſt cordially and well-affected to their King as well as to their Cauſe; there was no manner of queſtion to be made, but he would effectually do it, without any by-ends of his own, as ſoon as a general Peace ſhould give leave, by which time things would be ripe in the Kingdom, to favour his good Intentions to

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go on with the Converſion of our Nations; yea, and would take care to provide a ſufficient Body of Troops for the abetting of ſo hopeful a Work, in caſe there ſhould be any ſuch need of Force, but that it was reaſonably to be ſuppoſed there would need none: For that by the help of ſafer Methods and of Mony, which that great and zealous Prince would not let them want for ſo good a Work, the number of the Roman Catholicks muſt needs be ſo mightily encreaſed in a few Years, that the King might venture to declare himſelf in their favour; and then by the voluntary return of the Church of *England* to *Rome*, their Mother Church, and by the very dread of the formidable Power of *Lewis* the Great, who was known to be a ſure and faſt Friend to our two Royal Brothers, the other diſſenting Factions would be ſo over-powered with the number of their Opponents, and ſo terrified at their Strength, that if it had not the good effect to work them up into a complyance, it would at leaſt into ſuch a tameneſs, that they would neither be able to hinder, nor have the raſhneſs to oppoſe what Changes and Innovations the King ſhould afterwards have a mind to make in Church or State, and make them Triumphant in *England*. And thus they were to lead them

them on till they had nooſed them faſt in a Correſpondence with them; but not a word was to be told them (till they had firſt ſounded them whether they were fit to hear it) of any deſign they had to ſubject *England*, or enſlave the reſt of *Europe* to *French* Tyranny, or of the Murder of King or Duke, or both, in caſe they found them not pliable enough to their Inſtigations, or that their abominable Ends could be compaſſed no other ways; to which, if they would not be compliant, they were then by thoſe Tools to have ſome of their Correſpondence with them diſcovered, and have them accuſed as if they had been really guilty of what they were only tempted to: And ſo by this means all the conſiderable Men of them, beſides ſome Raſcals to make Tools of, were to be drawn into a cloſe Correſpondence with *France*, and beaten quite off from any application to *Rome*, or correſpondence with the Houſe of *Auſtria*; ſliely inſinuating, that *France* was the only Power in *Chriſtendom* that could preſerve or ſupport them. But the full deſign they had upon the Nation (as before hinted) was a Secret imparted but to a very few; nay, it was not as much as communicated to the *Jeſuits* of the two *Britiſh* Nations, but kept almoſt to the laſt, as an *Arcanum* among ſuch of them as were Native *French*, except only

two or three *Iriſh* Fathers, and ſome very few more of that ſame Nation, whom they thought averſe enough to the *Engliſh* Name and Nation, to be heartily true and conſtant to any Foreign Intereſt and Power capable to ſupport and effectually to back them in the bloodieſt and blackeſt Contrivances againſt their deteſted Conquerors: for rather than fail, to ſuch horrid Tragedies they were determined by ſome means or other to proceed, if they could no otherwiſe effect their wicked Purpoſes, and could have found a way to fix the Crime, as they had projected, on ſome other Party and Nation. *My Lord*, I have been tedious, but could not avoid it; I deſign without a Countermand to tranſmit to Your Lordſhip in my next the applications made to the Proteſtant Party upon the ſame Head; and in the mean time remain,

Paris, Mar. 17.
1682. *N. S.* *My Lord*,

Your Humble

Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XLIII.

Of the French *Artifices to amuſe the Proteſtants of the Church of* England, *while they carried on their Deſigns.*

My Lord,

PUrſuant to my Reſolutions in the cloſe of my laſt Letter, without I received a Countermand from your Lordſhip, which I have not, I am to acquaint you, what this Court's Maxims were, and what Methods they went upon, either to make the Proteſtants of the Church of *England*, helpful to their Deſigns, or at leaſt to do them no diſſervice, and be no obſtruction to them therein. To the Clergy therefore and Gentry of the forementioned Church, whom they imagined there was any likelyhood to pervert, they were to alledge moſt of the ſame things as before, as Arguments to perſwade and induce them to return to the Boſom of their Church, and would argue much from the agreement in ma-

ny things of both Religons; and were Inſtructed ſometimes not only firſt to inſinuate and then affirm the King was actually Perverted; but were moreover impudently to aſſert, That ſuch and ſuch Biſhops, ſuch and ſuch Eminent Doctors, ſuch and ſuch Peers of the Realm, and ſuch and ſuch remarkable Gentlemen, for Intereſts, Eſtates, and exquiſite Parts, *&c.* were to their knowledge, certainly and infallibly ſo too, tho' at preſent but covertly; and, That a greater part of their Church (whatever they might ſuggeſt with themſelves to the contrary) than they were aware of, or was eaſily indeed to be imagined, were of the ſame Sentiments; but that they were under a reſtraint, and durſt not declare themſelves to be ſuch, for fear of the *Mobile*, and of the *Preſbyterians*, other Sectaries and *Republican* Parties, which like ſo many evil Spirits, preſided over thoſe Savage kind of Animals, and ſtirred them as they pleaſed themſelves, againſt their Superiors.

But to thoſe, *My Lord*, whom they found to be of the more inflexible ſort, they were inſtructed to make uſe of great Flatteries and Complements, and to acquaint them, that they had a great deal of reaſon to love the *Roman Catholicks*, as the *Roman Catholicks* had to do ſo by

by them; for that they had had for a long time the ſame Common Enemies; had ſuffered much with them conjointly for the ſame Royal Cauſe in the late Rebellions; that their Adverſaries were numerous enough to require their united Power and Strength againſt them; and that their ſubtilty was no leſs to be dreaded by them, whoſe effects could not be warded off without ſuch a double Force; that there was much more danger to the Church and State of *England*, and to the Monarchical Government, now from the Sectaries, than from their Church; for it was plain to any one that was but willing to ſee, That it was now no more the *Roman Catholicks* Intereſt, ſince they were out of all hopes of being the predominant Religion in the Kingdom, to act againſt the Church or State of *England*, under whom they had ſuch mild Treatment, but much rather to join and fall in with them againſt the Sectaries and Common-wealth's-men, under whom they could never expect any thing but utmoſt Rigour and Cruelty; That it being impoſſible for them alone to ſupport and maintain themſelves in *England* againſt ſo great a number of Sectaries, as were with the greateſt inveteracy imaginable animated againſt them, without the Protection of the Church of *England*, and

the Monarchy, tho' but by way of Connivence; It was therefore ſo much their Concern and real Intereſt, to Pray for and endeavour after the Proſperity of both Parties, tho' different in Perſwaſion, that they had no reaſon to fear any thing from them, nor be alarm'd at the Converſions they had happened to make, which were ſo few and inconſiderable, as never to be able to do them hurt, had it been ſo deſigned, as it was not; That there was no danger neither from the *French* King's Friendſhip or cloſe Alliance with their King, it being the only Foreign Security, as matters then ſtood, that he could have againſt the intriegues and power of the *United Provinces*; who not only ruined their Commerce by Sea, but were the only People that buoyed up and ſupported the Sectaries and Republican Party, and harboured and abetted all Deſigns both againſt the Church and State of *England* under the then Monarchy; it being their inſeparable Intereſt in all things to thwart the *Engliſh*, almoſt in every particular they valued themſelves upon in the preſent Eſtabliſhment; Whereas, there was no exception to be made, but that it was his Moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty's undoubted Advantage and fixed Intereſt to cultivate by all good Offices the ſaid Friendſhip and Alliance, and

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to avoid by all manner of means any Rupture or Miſ-intelligence with *England*, and to oppoſe above all things, the change of our Monarchy into a Republick.

In the laſt place, continued they, Whereas, there had been for ſome time Reports ſpread not only of the Duke's, but the King himſelf's being of their Perſwaſion, they were to give out to this ſort of Men, that that was only a ſuſpicion, and, as they really believed, ill-grounded enough; for tho' they had reaſon to wiſh them, and all Mankind elſe, of their Opinion in that caſe; yet they had no ſuch reaſon to think them ſo; but that the King's having ſhewed ſome favour to them upon the ſcore of their Sufferings for, and Fidelity to his Father and himſelf, and out of reſpect to the Moſt *Chriſtian King* with whom he was ſo cloſely Alli'd, for his better ſupport and eſtabliſhment againſt the enemies of Monarchical Government, was the only grounds People had had for ſuch Rumours, which were induſtriouſly fomented only by the Authors of the former Fears and Jealouſies againſt his Father, in order to get an opportunity thereby once more to deſtroy the Regal Government: And, that they made this noiſe

indeed againſt Popery, but levelled it only at Epiſcopal and Kingly Government, not at ſuch contemptible Adverſaries as the *Roman* Catholicks were at that time of day. Then as for the Duke, they were to affirm, They thought and had reaſon to believe, he was no more a Catholick than the King; but that being a Prince of an high and inflexible Spirit, and Heir preſumptive to the Royal Diadem, diſdained to be compelled by any Subjects, either to take an Oath, or give any account of his Religion, only to gratifie their Humours and Fancies; and choſe rather to forbear acting in any publick Employment: But, that for their part, as he had not yet declared againſt the Church of *England*, ſo he had as yet made no profeſſion of the *Roman* Catholick Religion as they knew of, but took care to keep himſelf as much reſerved towards them, as towards thoſe of the Proteſtant Perſwaſion.

By ſuch ſort of Sophiſtry and cunning Artifices, theſe *French* Incendiaries were inſtrumental to endeavour to Keep up the Stiff Church Party in a perpetual Animoſity againſt the Proteſtant Diſſenters and *Dutch* Party, as both of a Party; and to ſtir up the Government to ſide ſtill with the *French* Intereſt againſt the power

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and growth of the one, and provide with ſeverity againſt the Practices of the other, in order to exaſperate as much as poſſibly they could, the Spirits of both Parties againſt the other, and widen the Breaches beyond all poſſibility of reſtoring them again. Which how well they have already effected, is but too well known, and no leſs ſorely felt in the Bowels of the Kingdom for me to take upon me to Deſcant upon; and therefore I ſhall forbear, and only ſubſcribe my ſelf,

My Lord,

Paris, Mar. 28.
1682.

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt humble Servant

to Command.

LETTER

LETTER XLIV.

Of the French *Intrigues to raiſe a good Opinion in the Proteſtant Diſſenters of* England, *of the* French *King's Proceedings, and to Calumniate their own King.*

My Lord,

I Am come to the laſt Body of Men within the Kingdom, whom this Court, by ſuch like Engines as I formerly mentioned, has endeavoured to manage for to ſerve their own turn, to the Kingdom's diſadvantage, and they are the *Proteſtant Diſſenters*; but they were neceſſitated, to give the leſs umbrage, to change their ſhapes and form of expreſſion to thoſe of that Party whom they had the deſign upon, and to whom they cloſely and warmly remonſtrated; That they had no occaſion to be jealous of the Proceedings of *France*, and be animated ſo fiercely againſt King *Lewis*, if they would but once conſider, the

the great Liberty and Priviledges which their Proteſtant Brethren enjoy'd in the *French* Dominions; their former aſſiſting the oppreſſed Proteſtant *Dutch*, and other Proteſtant States, againſt the Bloody Inquiſitors, and Unchriſtian Inquiſition; the ſevere Perſecutions of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, the frequent differences of *France* with the Court of *Rome*, and the little power the Pope was allowed in the *Gallican* Church, no more than what was Titular; and that if theſe things were but duly weighed, it might be more than preſumed, the preſent *French* King would little concern himſelf, or any way intermeddle with Religious Conteſts in *England*: But that whatever opinion they might have of that Neighbouring King to his diſadvantage, which yet did but little affect or concern him, they had on the contrary much occaſion to look about them at home; and to that end, theſe Emiſſaries were to promote, tooth and nail, the belief of the King and Duke's being both Papiſts; but particularly to affirm, that the Duke was moſt certainly of that Religion, and at the ſame time to diſcover aſſured Evidences of it; as alſo of the Meaſures concerted to bring in both Popery and Arbitrary Power, and really to detect ſome Meaſures, which themſelves

ſelves had as yet but only projected, or at leaſt but propoſed, and that too but to the Duke only, as if they had been fully conſented to, and begun underhand to be put in practice; And having once well impreſt this, they were to exaggerate the greatneſs and eminency of the danger, the more to alarm them; and ſlily to inſinuate, that an Accommodation was Tranſacting between the two Churches of *Rome* and *England*; and a thouſand other Artifices they us'd beſides, to animate each Party againſt the other, too tedious for your Lordſhip to read, or me to relate; neither need I tell you how they traverſed one another's deſigns, only I muſt Note, Sir *Roger L'Eſtrange*, and almoſt all the Writers for that ſide, under a pretence of ſerving the Church of *England*, and the Monarchy, and ſome alſo of the other Party, though unknown to themſelves, were and are ſtill but the unhappy Tools and Inſtruments of *French* Jeſuits and *Machiavillian* Emiſſaries; who were the main Conjurers, that by undiſcovered Spells have raiſed up thoſe Devils of Diſcord, that under the Names of Whigs, Tories, and Trimmers, have ſo much diſturbed our Native Country, and the LORD knoweth where it will terminate. I am glad to hear your

Lordſhip

Lordſhip hath ſo well exerted the Caution and Prudence inherent in your Family in theſe times of difficulty, and may it be ſo ſtill, which is the hearty deſire of,

My Lord,

Paris, April 8.
1682. *N. S.*

Your Lordſhip's

moſt Humble

and moſt Obedient

Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XLV.

Of the Duke of York's *being drawn into a cloſe Correſpondence with the* French *Court, with an Account of his Penſion from thence.*

My Lord,

I Cannot think your Lordſhip will ſo much admire, that the Duke ſhould ſuffer himſelf to engage into a cloſe Correſpondence with the *French* Court, yea, and to enter into a ſeparate Treaty with them, when other things more unlikely, have been made evident enough ſo as not to be contradicted: I cannot tell at preſent whether there be any other particulars of this ſame Treaty, than what has come within my Cognizance; but ſo much as has, as I hope it will be acceptable, I as freely communicate, and was in ſubſtance as followeth.

First,

First, The Duke was engaged to ſtick cloſe to his Alliance with *France*, declining all Treaties with thoſe of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and even with the Pope himſelf, without the *French* King's Privity and Approbation.

Secondly, To oppoſe to the utmoſt of his Power, the King his Brother, from engaging in any War for the Confederates.

Thirdly, To joyn with him, the *French* King, in making a ſtrong Effort to draw in, if poſſible, the Prince of *Orange* to embrace a ſeparate Intereſt from that of the States of *Holland*; and if not, to come over to the *Roman* Religion, at leaſt to enter into a ſeparate Treaty with the Kingdoms of *France* and *England*, under a pretence of laying a ſure foundation for his own future Greatneſs, and eſtabliſh it on both ſides the Sea by the ſuppreſſion of all Factions which now diſturbed his Uncle, and might afterward diſturb him; and in caſe he proved ſtill obſtinate, to ſecond him in all Methods that might be uſed to hinder his Succeſſion to the Crown of *England*, by hindring any Match that might be propoſed between the Prince and

and the Princeſs *Mary*; and that he ſhould for that purpoſe keep off Matching either of his Two Daughters upon ſeveral pretences to gain time till a fit juncture might come, when Matches might be accompliſhed for them both, with *French* Princes, or ſome other Princes in that Intereſt, *viz.* the eldeſt to the *Dauphin*, and the younger to the Duke of *Savoy*, or a Prince of the Houſes of *Conde* or *Conti*, or to the Duke of *Modena*.

Fourthly, That the Duke ſhould do his utmoſt to have the Government of his Children himſelf, and to have them Tutored, if poſſible, in his own Religion; and if they were obſtinate, in caſe he ſhould fail of other Iſſue, then they would have had him to exclude them, and Adopt the Duke of *Chartres* for his Heir, (but this was only propoſed) and Intail the Crown thence forward to Heirs Male only, and to have the *Salique* Law Eſtabliſhed in *England*, as well as in *France*; but and if he ſhould not be powerful enough to hinder a Match with the Prince of *Orange*, or ſome other Proteſtant Prince, (but of the former they were moſt jealous,) then to concur with them to cut him off; but this point would not be formally aſſented to neither.

But

But all Points propoſed were on his part eaſily aſſented to; As doing his utmoſt for the propagation of the Catholick Religion, purſuing Meaſures concerted for dividing of Proteſtants, undermining of Parliaments, and putting forward Arbitrary Counſels without reſerve, and particularly to raiſe Arms in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and call in *French* Forces, in caſe the King ſhould at any time, by any Motives whatſoever, be influenced to act to the *French* King's prejudice.

Laſtly, The Duke was to take care, That no Popiſh Clergy or Layety ſhould be imploy'd by him, but ſuch as were in the *French* Intereſts, and truſt his main Secrets with none but ſuch as were *French*-born Jeſuits; on which Conditions he was to have a conſiderable Annuity of Six hundred thouſand Crowns, and extraordinary Sums when neceſſary, and the circumſtances of things did require to carry on any of the forementioned Points, even to what he pleaſed himſelf to demand.

So all things being thus concluded, he received in hand, Three hundred thouſand Crowns of his Annuity, and Six

hundred thouſand Crowns extraordinary; and Jewiſh Bankers were accordingly imployed to tranſmit the Money to him from time to time; Beſides all which, the *French* King's Confeſſor promiſed him a private Contribution from the Clergy, and others under his influence, of ſix hundred thouſand Crowns more. But notwithſtanding all theſe mighty promiſes, and other more magnificent ones, That he ſhould not want five or ſix Millions of Livres at any time, to bring a deſign to perfection when once he had made a progreſs; their Notes ſay, That private directions were given to feed him only with ſuch mean pittances as would but juſt enable him to keep himſelf up, and perſuade him ſtill to go on, to perplex matters, or *Broviller les Cartes* as they term it, raiſe and exaſperate Factions and Parties; but never to proceed ſo far as totally to ſuppreſs any, leſt he ſhould make himſelf too much Maſter, and by that means be able to ſet up for himſelf, without their further Aid and Concurrence, or have any Money to ſpare and lay up for his own uſe, or to imploy in private Cabals againſt them.

The ſame Method they uſed, *My Lord*, with moſt of their other Penſioners among the Engliſh Popiſh Party; but to all

all their other Inſtruments, they were moſt liberal and punctual, till ſuch time as they had no further uſe of them, and had a mind to turn them off, and provoke them, as we have ſaid, to uſe their Talents on a contrary ſide. Pardon, I beſeech, *your Lordſhip*, my prolixity, and interpret it for a willingneſs to ſerve you, as it really is, in him, who is,

Paris, *Jan.* 28. 1680. N. S.

My Lord,

Your moſt humble

and moſt devoted

Servant.

LETTER XLVI.

Of the Dutcheſs of York's *being gained entirely to the* French *Intereſts; With an Account of the Propoſals ſhe aſſented to.*

My Lord,

HAving gained the Duke over into their Intereſts, ſo far as to aſſent to the performance almoſt of every Propoſal to him on their part, as I have in my laſt ſet forth at large to your Lordſhip; The next ſtep was to bring in the Dutcheſs, his Conſort, now into the ſame or worſe Nooſe, who being an adopted Daughter of *France*, and of the Feminine Gender, they found no hard Task to effect; and after ſome Tampering, they at laſt prevailed ſo far, as to perſuade her to diſcover to them from time to time, her Husband's greateſt Secrets, and would never let him reſt, but be inceſſantly teazing him till ſhe had extorted all that was worth knowing or communication from him; not to fail to tranſmit unto them an account from time to time of the Money the Duke received from them, how

how he ſpent it; to uſe all the influence ſhe had over him, to perform with utmoſt exactneſs all the points of his Agreement with them; but more particularly that part which related to the Duke's Daughters; and finally, to ſecond effectually the means which they ſhould preſcribe her at any time about giving an *Italian Fig* to the King, either of the two Princeſſes, or all of them, if it were though requiſite, as the cauſe of Religion, her own main Intereſt of ſecuring the *Engliſh* Throne in the Succeſſion of it to her Husband and her own Iſſue, ſhould neceſſarily require, without concerning the Duke her Husband at all in the ſaid Intrigue; In conſideration of her compliance wherein, ſhe was likewiſe to have an Annuity aſſigned her, but the definite Sum is not mentioned; and whether ſhe had Sons or Daughters to live, ſhe, as far as lay in her power to promote it, was to aſſent to have them Match'd to the moſt apparent of the Royal Family of *France*, if there were any ſuch for them; or into ſuch other Princely Families as were moſt ſuitable for them in the Judgment of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; who did oblige himſelf to take a Paternal care of them, and would ever keep his Royal Word by the exacteſt Performance. I do not queſtion but theſe things

are a Trouble to your Lordſhip; tho' I am apt to perſuade my ſelf, you would not willingly be without the perfecteſt Intelligence of them that you can get, wherein I have had the Honour, and ſhall always think my ſelf happy to ſerve you in any the leaſt degree, and am proud of the opportunity to ſubſcribe my ſelf once more

Paris, Jan. 12. 1680.

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt Humble

and Moſt Obedient

Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XLVII.

Containing a general Account of Parties engaged in French *Intereſts, and of their Deſigns; but more particularly of one* Kelly *a Prieſt*, &c.

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip will not now wonder, when ſuch as I have mentioned in ſome of my late Letters, have plung'd themſelves ſo deeply in *French* Sudds, that others ſhould be ſo eaſily drawn into their Intereſts; I am to acquaint you therefore, That this Court had, according to their Projection, gain'd the moſt conſiderable *Roman* Catholicks in the Three Kingdoms, by fair and ſpecious Pretences, to comply even to every thing they deſired of them; as thinking King *Lewis* to be a moſt Generous Prince, that had no By-ends in it, but as he was moſt able, was moſt willing to promote the propagation of that Religion, and the reinſtating their King in a condition to Protect them, out of a pure piece of Honour and Zeal for the Catholick Faith,

as they were wont to Word it; who therefore moſt willingly entred into a Correſpondence with his Agents and Emiſſaries; and ſome of them took Penſions, but I cannot give your Lordſhip a Liſt of their Names at this juncture; but moſt of that Kidney acted freely, in uſing all the endeavours they poſſibly could, to induce both King, Duke, *&c.* to a compliance with them in all things they had inſtructions to move to them and ſollicit for; as they had long done themſelves in the points I have already mentioned to your Lordſhip, and which I need not repeat: But tho' they deſigned, if either one or both of the Royal Brothers ſhould diſoblige them too much, eſpecially the King, or that any juncture of things, or grand conveniency of theirs, ſhould perſuade, to proceed to ſome barbarous Extremity againſt the Perſons of one or both of them; yet they thought not good to truſt any *Britiſh* Papiſts with any thing ſo black, no not ſo much as their Jeſuits, but took particular heed to reſerve theſe Myſteries to another Cabal, having provided for that a *Junćto* of Foreigners and *Iriſh* for the taking off the King, if things came to that extremity: And as for the Duke, they ſeemed not much afraid of him, and therefore made no ſuch exact proviſion,

but

but they knew of ſome two or three deſperate *Fanaticks*, whom they had in reſerve for that purpoſe, and they were of the *Scotch Nation*; but if the King alone was to be taken off, then the Dutcheſs's Cabal in conjunction with that of *Portſmouth*, were to engage in it; but if things came to that extremity, as that both Brothers were to be removed, then *Portſmouth*'s Gang was only to be imployed, without the concern or privity of the other. And this laſt Cabal of *Portſmouth*'s was compoſed of *French* and *Iriſh* Jeſuits, and Jeſuited Popiſh Bigots.

But among them there was a certain Prieſt named *Kelly*, who was a long time Banker to the Cabal, and is ſtill I believe, on this ſide the Water, and coming to hear by the Correſpondence he held with his Complotters in *England*, there were ſome who ſcrupled ſuch Undertakings; he went Over, ſaying, He would procure enough to do either of the Works if occaſion were. I had once a Bill upon him for a Friend of mine, and then I remember he railed mightily againſt both King and Duke, and ſaid they were both Knaves, Fools and Cowards, for that having forſaken the *French* Intereſt, they would be Ruined, and ſee all their Kingdoms quickly in

in Flames; That it was an eaſie matter for the King of *France* to do it; That it would very quickly be effected, and be a moſt laudable Action; and would, he hoped, end in the total ſubjection of the Three Kingdoms to the *French* King's Power, which he heartily wiſhed for his poor Country's ſake, ſo tyrannized over by Hereticks; with abundance more of ſuch Stuff; but I knew not then he was ſo deeply concerned as afterward, when I found his name for an Undertaker in *Portſmouth*'s Cabal; one Father *Patrick* alſo who uſed often to go and come, and was wont to conceal his Intriguing under a peculiar appearance, was another of the ſame Cabal, with two or three *French* Men, whoſe Names I have not at preſent. Your Lordſhip will pardon this imperfect Account, and judge favourably of his Endeavours, who deſires nothing more than to gratifie your Expectation, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 19. 1680, *N. S.*

Your Honour's moſt Humble and Devoted Servant.

LETTER

LETTER XLVIII.

Of the Private Treaty between King Charles *the Second, and the* French *King.* Anno 1576

My Lord,

I Have already upon two ſeveral occaſions obſerved to Your Lordſhip, how the Duke and Dutcheſs were drawn into private Correſpondences with the *French* Court, which when they had once happily effected, and by them and ſome others, already in their Intereſts, (whereof I have mentioned ſoome) drawn in, many more both Courtiers and others; they proceeded, being thus ſo conſiderably re-inforced, to hedge in the King himſelf; and it was high time, for they had now a greater Jealouſie than ever, of the Match with the Prince of *Orange*, tho' he were not yet come over into *England* to that purpoſe; and ſo far they did prevail, that he did oblige himſelf to do all he could to obſerve ſtill a partial Neutrality with them: Then

Then they propoſed his hindring the Match with the Prince of *Orange*, unleſs he could be drawn into a ſeparate Treaty with the two Kings, and delay at all Matching of the Princeſſes till a general Peace, and to reſerve the Eldeſt for the *Dauphin*; tho' in the mean while they promiſed the Duke of *Bavaria* the ſame advantage for his Daughter, the better to keep him in a Neutrality with them during the then War with the *Confederates*, but never intended it with the latter, if they could have effected it with our Princeſs; But in that, the King told them, There might be difficulties inſuperable, and ſo could promiſe them nothing but his Endeavours, which by reaſon the Parliament and People were much out of Humour, upon the Duke's late Match would require much Money; becauſe now for him to go about to croſs them afreſh, in obſtructing, or ſo much as delaying ſuch a Match, the propoſal whereof was already ſo much known to his People, and found to be ſo much deſired by them, as the only remedy they imagined they had left them againſt the feared miſchief of the other, would hinder them perhaps from granting him ſuch Supplies as he might otherwiſe expect of them: unleſs his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty obliged himſelf to

ſupply

ſupply him with Money enough to need them not, or at leaſt to buy Votes, and to ſtop clamorous Mouths; but as for that Motion of theirs about committing the Children to the Duke's Care and Tutorage, tho' they were ſeconded in it by the Duke himſelf with all the importunity imaginable, yet he abſolutely denied them; ſaying, They were his Children, or rather the Nation's, and not the Duke's, eſpecially now he had Matched ſo much againſt the Nation's liking; and that could he have believed the People of *England* would have taken ſo much Allarm at that Marriage, he ſhould have taken care to have ſtopped it in time; But that having let one Fault paſs, to admit another much worſe, was a thing he doubted not but would cauſe ſuch Earthquakes as he was reſolved not to run the riſque of, therefore ſhould not do it; ſo that Article was wholly laid aſide, and the Treaty concluded without, by which the *French* King was to pay ours an Annuity of Twelve hundred thouſand Crowns, whereof Six huudred thouſand in hand, beſides a Donative of a like Sum at the ſame time for Extraordinaries, and if any occaſion ſhould happen by croſneſs of Parliaments, Rebellion, or otherwiſe, that ſhould reaſonably

nably require ſo much, then he was promiſed to have it augmented to twelve Millions of *Livres* whilſt ſuch Troubles ſhould laſt, tho' this latter part they never intended, but gave orders he ſhould be treated only with a Bit now and then, as was the Duke his Brother; only if a Civil War ſhould happen, they were to feed it on both ſides, till it were fit to pour in *French* Forces among them, *&c.* Yet I have obſerved, during my abode in this Station, that there was a Fund of Twenty Millions of *Livres* deſigned for our three Kingdoms, whereof ſometimes they gave largely to the King and Duke his Brother, and ſlenderly to the ſeveral Factions, only to keep them in heart; and ſometimes again largely to them, and little or none to the King and Duke, to make the former Luſty, and Mettleſome to kick and keep the others Low, that being in a crowing condition, they might comply with them. Of thoſe Sums, there has gone ſome years Four, ſometimes Six, and ſometimes Eight Millions to *Scotland* and *Ireland*; but to the King and Duke, there never went more than than I have mentioned, and that but the firſt Year neither; all the reſt went to the other

other Courtiers, and to the ſeveral Factions, who of late have had moſt of it.

In this Treaty, which was concluded by a private Agent, as were the others, there was a Clauſe incerted, which gave the King leave, if too much preſs'd upon, to pretend as if he would ſide with the *Confederates* againſt *France*, and to get Money of them, as alſo of his Parliament on that account; but yet he was by no means to Declare, but to get an Army and Revenue ſettled for ſome time, ſuch as was ſuppoſed to be the duration of the War, and then to uſe both the one and the other to ſettle his Prerogative-Royal, and make himſelf Abſolute, *&c.* I cannot, *My Lord*, without ſome Reluctancy, think of ſeveral Paſſages in this Epiſtle, and particularly, that a King who above Twenty Years had had the greateſt opportunity of any of his Predeceſſors to make himſelf great both at Home and abroad, ſhould fall to ſo abject a State, as to become a *French Penſioner*, which without the addition of any other Crime, is more than enough eternally to blaſt the Memory of an *Engliſh* Monarch; but I know this

this Subject can be ungrateful to no one alive more than to your Lordſhip; and therefore I ſhall forbear further inſiſting upon it, and remain,

Paris, Jan. 27.
1680. *N. S.*

My Lord,

Your Honour's

to Serve and Obey.

LETTER

LETTER XLIX.

Of King Charles *II's Politick's upon his Entring into the fore-mentioned private League with* France, *as represented by the* French *Court.*

My LORD,

IN my laſt, your Lordſhip had the ſubſtance of the *Private League* entred into by our King, and this Court, it may not be now unworthy your curioſity to know the Cenſure they have paſt upon him in relation to that head; they have ſaid, they underſtood well enough that what ever their Deſign might be in obtaining ſuch a point, that the King, and his Brother's too upon them, was to draw as much Money out of them as they poſſibly could thereby, and yet not to venture too far on any of thoſe important and tickliſh Points propoſed, without very large Summs, to ſecure every Step made forward, and that by advance too; for that they both concluded that the beſt and only way to make the *French* ſtick cloſe to them was, to be always conſiderably before-hand with them, not without reaſon, as they imagined, fearing, that if they were not ſtill before-hand, when they had engaged them in Difficulties, and ſaw them faſt, they would

leave them in the lurch: As for the King, tho' they knew him to be no more a Papiſt than he was a Politician, yet he was of the Opinion, if the Popiſh Religion could be handſomly made predominant, it might ſuit better with the Monarchy; yet having no Children to ſucceed him, that he was but careleſs in that point, and his Brother only being concerned in that matter, he moved only as he was ſpurred on by his importunity, the Temptation of Money, the Diffidence he had of his People, and among others, the Fears he had either of having his days ſhortned, or his Crown very much endangered by the Intrigues of his Brother, or the *French* King; ſhould he not keep fair and humour them both in ſome tollerable meaſure, ſince he found himſelf ſo far intangled in their ſnares: For as for his Nephew the Prince of *Orange*, that he had no averſion for him, but rather an inclination through Nature and Policy, and therefore was of himſelf willing enough the Match *ſhould* go on; yet that he would have been glad, if the Prince could have been drawn over to the *French* Intereſt, for that then he thought he would have compaſſed many deſirable Ends in one buſineſs, and made a very great advance to have ſatisfied all parties in the greateſt part of their ſeveral Pretenſions; becauſe that then he ſuppoſed he could have ſatisfied the *French* King, in bringing over

over a Prince to his Intereſt ſo very capable to ſerve him in that juncture of time; that he would have ſatisfied alſo thoſe of his own Subjects, who were well affected to the *Engliſh* Monarchy, as he would have likewiſe our Trading Companies, by marrying our Princeſs to a Prince of the *Proteſtant Religion*, whom he by ſeparating from the Intereſts of the States of *Holland*, and drawing into a League with two great Kings, ſhould have put into a condition to depreſs that Republick, which was ſo ill a Neighbour to the Monarchy, ſo much our rival in Trade, and ſo great a fomenter of the Schiſms and Factions in *England*; that thereby he ſhould have laid grounds to hope, that if ever he ſucceeded to thoſe Crowns, he might be able to ſubject the *Belgick* to the *Britiſh Lions*, and transfer the magazine of the Riches of the World from the *Netherlands* into *England*; and that he thought to have ſatisfied the Duke, his Brother, in a great meaſure, by ſo ſatisfying his friend the *French* King, and likewiſe by depreſſing a Republick ſo well ſcituated and inclined to abet his deadly Enemies, that in all appearance would way-lay his Succeſſion to the Throne, and thereby cutting off all occaſion from that Male-content party, that continually ſought occaſion to ſtir up againſt him the old Devils of Fears and Jealouſies of *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power*. And that he thought to oblige the Prince

too, by putting him into a method to become a Sovereign in time. And laſtly, that he was perſwaded, if the Prince complied with thoſe Methods, the Match could diſoblige no body, but the States of *Holland*, and the ſympathizing Factions of the Sectaries in *England*, and the *Republicans*, whom he thought inconſiderable; but that how deſirous ſoever he was of ſuch a Compliance with *France*, as they deſired, yet it was not in his inclination to break the Match, for that he having in reality a much greater mind to the Alliance with the Prince of *Orange*, than to that with the *Dauphine*, in which he did imagine he foreſaw unſurmountable Difficulties, and ſuch as might endanger, if not over-turn, his Throne, ruine his Brother, and the whole Royal Family, and at laſt make *Great Britain* but a *French* Province; however that knowing the Temper of the Duke, his Brother, and the vindicative humour of the *French* King, he was willing to ſeem almoſt all complaiſant, and temporize for a while, whereby he might appeaſe them, and at the ſame time get what Money could be drawn from *France*, both for his own ſecurity and pleaſure; and when he had done that, that he knew wheeling about and concluding the Match, when they leaſt thought of it, or expected it would pleaſe his people again, tho' never ſo unſatisfied by the delay. Theſe, my Lord, are the Sentiments

of

of this Court, concerning him; which, if true, in all points, I conceive they are more beholding to him, than many perſons in *England* are willing to believe of him; but I ſhall leave it to your Lordſhips profound Judgment, to revolve upon the particulars, and remain,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

Paris, Feb. 1. 1680. *N.S.*

Moſt Humble and Devoted Servant

LETTER L.

Of the Duke of York's *Politicks upon his entring into a cloſe Correſpondence with* France, *as the* French *Politicians repreſent them.*

My LORD,

AS I have tranſmitted to your Lordſhip the exacteſt Particulars I could learn concerning the King's entring into a private Treaty with *France*, and in my laſt the Cenſure of this Court thereupon; I have alſo to the beſt of my remembrance given you likewiſe an Account of the Duke's being drawn into a cloſe Corre-

ſpondence with them ſome time before; but whether it were that the Miniſters on this ſide conceived ſuch a Judgment of the King, as I have already related, and ſuch of the Duke, which I am juſt about to relate, I cannot poſitively determine; but thus it is they cenſure him, ſaying, That though he was ſo much a Bigot in Religion that he was totally averſe to the *Aurangian Alliance*, unleſs it could be reconciled to thoſe ends which he propoſed to himſelf thereby, and eſpecially about Replanting both the *Popiſh Religion* and *Abſolute Power* in the three Kingdoms, and incline rather to the Match ſuggeſted with the *Dauphine*, with an intent the more friendly to oblige his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty to aſſiſt him through all the difficulties he fore-ſaw he had to paſs; yet he was not a little affraid, of the great Reſiſtance he knew would neceſſarily be made againſt ſuch an Alliance, which many in *England* looked upon as the moſt pernicious that ever could befall their Nation; being alſo of himſelf not a little jealous, that if once ſuch a Match between his Eldeſt Daughter and the *Dauphine* were concluded, ſome ſly practiſes might be carried on by the *French* Court, againſt the Iſſue he ſhould have by his now Dutcheſs, in favour of that his Daughter might probably have by the *Dauphine*; and therefore that he was much more willing and deſirous, if it might be compaſſed, that a Match

Match might in time convenient be concluded between his ſaid Daughter rather and his Dutcheſſes Brother, the Duke of *Modena*, or ſome *Italian* Prince, of no power enough to be apprehended to entertain any ſuch Deſigns; and that as much *French* as ſhe was before, his Dutcheſs was now of the ſame Sentiments too, being married, and in hopes of a numerous Iſſue by the Duke. Theſe are all the Particulars I have hitherto met with, in relation to the Duke and his Dutcheſs's Sentiments, and with which I conclude, who am,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt Humble and

Devoted Servant.

Paris, Feb. 14. 1680. *N. S.*

LETTER LI.

Of Coleman's *Intelligence, and private Correſpondence with* France, *to the King and Duke's Diſadvantage; and his Motions and Pretences for Money.*

My LORD,

WHen I acquainted your Lordſhip with the Cenſure paſt by this Court upon the King and Duke's Sentiments, in re-

reference to their League and Correſpondencies with them, and eſpecially the buſineſs of the Match, I could neither determine whether it were purely their own Suggeſtions, collected from the Circumſtances and natural Poſitions of things as they then ſtood, which I was inclined to, or to ſome ſecret Information from another hand, but now I find the latter to be true; for whatever the King, Duke and Dutcheſſe's true Sentiments were, ſo they were repreſented under-hand by *Coleman* to the *Juncto* here, and by ſome other ſelf-ended Confidents of theirs, of whom but more particularly of Mr. *Coleman* I find it thus inſerted in our Minutes: That being entered into a cloſe and ſeparate Correſpondence of his own with this Court, beſides that known to their Highneſſes, whoſe Agent he was, he was therein to give them intelligence of all that was tranſacted at *White-hall*, and *St. James's*, that poſſibly he could, but more eſpecially of the Comportment of the King and the Duke, as to the Points agreed on between *France* and them; as alſo of the Diſpoſition of all the Factions in *England*, and of the foreign Miniſters, *&c.* to obliege himſelf to make Parties to croſs his Maſter, the Duke, or the King, or both; in caſe either, or both of them, ſhould go about to deviate from the Meaſures preſcribed them by the *French* Court.

I find,

I find, my Lord, he was beſides this a great Undertaker for Converſions, and Proſelyting Men to *Rome*, or rather *France*; and his Agreement with them was to have allowed him as an Annuity the Summe of Twenty Thouſand Crowns punctually to be paid, and for Extraordinaries, as ſhould be calculated, according to the emergency of the Occaſions: His Pretenſes for Converſions were manifold, and extravagant enough in the relation of them; and did ſlily at firſt inſinuate, and when he had once broken the Ice, warmly urged, that whereas the Duke had very large Remittances made him upon the account of Converſions, wherein he was an Undertaker; that it were more adviſable, for the future, to entruſt him with a moderate Summe for that purpoſe, and thereby ſave themſelves that deal which they muſt have ſent to the Duke upon that Account, if they ſhould ſend any; and ſo moved them, entirely to wave that point with him, for that he could do much more in that nature, than the Duke could ever pretend to, becauſe more imperceptibly.

He promiſed them likewiſe for the gaining of Members of Parliament over to their Intereſt, great and mighty things, and then diſcreetly inſinuated thoſe things already ſpoken of, about the Deſigns of the King and Duke towards them, and thereupon adviſed them to tranſmit unto them

them both only but moderate Summes, and let him have but moderate ones, according to a private Man's fortune, and he would take effectual care both to manage them, and do their buſineſs in *England* more to purpoſe, than they would do without him.

He alſo added, That to give the King and Duke great Summes, would be no other than to enable them to buy the Parliament's Votes for themſelves, and not for the Intereſt of *France*, and to get ſuch ſtore of Money of them, that they would afterward take ſuch meaſures as they themſelves pleaſed, without any regard to *France*, being ſure to pleaſe the People at any time whenever they were minded to go contrary to them; and much matter to the ſame purpoſe, with which I ſhall no farther trouble your Lordſhip, but ſubſcribe my ſelf, as I unfeignedly am, and ever ſhall be,

My LORD,

Your moſt Obedient and

Paris, Feb. 28.
1680. *N. S.*

Moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LII.

The Duke of York *moves the* French *Court for Money, according to the private Agreement.*

My LORD,

YOu have heard what a Spoke Mr. *Coleman* was pleaſed to put in the King and even, the Duke, his dear Maſter's wheel, which they, poor Princes, knowing nothing of, moved hard for the Summes promiſed by *France*: the Duke as ſuppoſing his Credit the better, being the forwarder of the Two, and whoſe Pretences were, that he had been forced to lay out by advance, the greateſt part of the Money already pay'd to make Creatures for their mutual Intereſt, and future advantage, all ſuch Enterprizes being much more chargable to begin, then to carry on, and perfect; that when Correſpondencies were begun they muſt be carried on, and that ſtill by advance, if any thing of ſervice were expected, or hoped for.

That he had a moſt difficult and uneaſy Task to deal with the King, his Brother's timerous and changeable Diſpoſition, and was, and had been at a very great Expence to greaze Favourites of more Kinds then one, that might influence and perſwade

ſwade him to, and hinder others that might diſſwade him from what they in *France* did expect from him, or urged him to; as alſo to appeaſe and quell Enemies on all ſides, which his late Match with their adopted Daughter, and change in Religion had ſtirred up violently againſt him; and that to keep the King, his Brother, ſteddy in a favourable Neutrality in regard to *France*, and yet at the ſame time either break off the Match quite with the Prince of *Orange*, defer it ſo long as they deſired, or negotiate a private Treaty with that Prince in their favour, and to their advantage, with that power and good effect deſirable, required, as they might well imagine, more than ordinary Summes of Money, and all ready, and in *Specie* too.

But that if beſides his ordinary Allowance, according to the Agreement, which he expected ſhould be punctually pay'd him every ſix months, he could but have a Summ of a Million of Crowns again ſeaſonably advanced him for Extraordinaries, before the time of the next prorogation of the Parliament were expired; then he did believe he might bring matters ſo to bear, by ſuch a Reinforcement, ſo as to be able to gain Votes enough even in the Parliament it ſelf to carry it againſt all others, both in reſpect to the Neutrality, and to the gaining their Conſent for deferring any Foreign Allyance, by way

way of Marriage of either of his Daughters, till a General Peace was concluded, and work very much with the Prince of *Orange* too to comply with their deſires, when he ſhould ſee the Parliament gave him no hopes otherwiſe of compaſſing his Aims; or if not, yet at leaſt he ſhould be able hereby to keep himſelf ſtill ſtrongeſt in the Privy Council, and in the Court, where nothing ſhould be tranſacted to their diſadvantage.

That both his own Friends and theirs had been ſo very ſucceſsful, and made ſuch wonderful progreſſes in Converſions of all ſorts and Ranks of People, as that of ſuch and ſuch Peers of the Realm (I will not ſay your Lordſhip was one named among the reſt) ſuch and ſuch Courtiers, and Members of Parliament, *&c.* that ſuch and ſuch Biſhops, Eminent Doctors in Divinity, and other dignified Clergy, and ſuch and ſuch Gentlemen who were remarkable for Intereſt and Eſtates, or Eminent for exquiſite Parts, though they have learnt here ſince there was nothing more falſe, were either already converted, and quite brought over, or extraordinarily well inclined; and that there was no doubt to be made of it, but by an augmentation of about four or five hundred thouſand Crowns more for the Cauſe and Intereſt of Religion, they might be able ſo to diſpoſe of the greater and more noted part of the Conforming Church

Church of *England*, which was the main of their Work, as to bring them over to their Religion; yea, and even to declare for it, publickly too, as ſoon as they ſhould be freed from the Fears of the *Engliſh* Mobile, and of the Fanatical Sectaries, and ſee a General Peace concluded, and the King himſelf declare for it, being back'd with ſo powerful a Prince as his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty was; that however many of them were already brought over to the *French* Intereſt againſt the *Dutch*, and many more might be ſo, if timely Liberality were offered, with many other Allegations, ſet off with *Coleman*'s uſual flouriſhes on the behalf of his Maſter, though he had countermined all before, as I have already hinted: And laſtly, that he had once more attacked the King, his Brother, as to Religion, and that with great hopes; and that if he could have but Money enough to carry on the Point with the Church of *England*, he queſtioned not, but by that time a General Peace were negotiated, his Majeſty would be induced to declare too, when beſides, his ſupport abroad from the Moſt Chriſtian King, he ſhould ſee himſelf backt by almoſt all his Royaliſts, then numerous enough in the Nation, and ſo great, yea, more than a probability of an Accommodation between the two Churches of *Rome* and *England*, and his potent Brother of *France* then by the Peace at full liberty

Liberty to lend him all needful Help. My Lord, you ſee here what little Sincerity there was in all their mutual Proceedings: May the Reward be ſuitable, is my unfeigned Wiſh; as it has been already to ſome. But——I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

Paris, Mar. 9. 1680. N. S.

Moſt Humble and Devoted Servant.

LETTER LIII.

Of King Charles *II's urging the* French *Court for his Remittances, according to the private League between them.*

My LORD,

YOU have heard what preſſing Inſtances His Highneſs has made for his Remittances, according to Agreement; and what mighty Encouragements he has given this Court of gaining their Ends, both in Court and Parliament: And now 'tis fit the King ſhould put in his Plea at laſt; which he did in this manner, as their Minutes repreſent it.

That

That for his part, he had advanced rather more than leſs Money than he had already received from them, for carrying on their Work; and that, not to enumerate many Particulars, he would obſerve to them, that when he ſaw there was no other Probability of obliging his dear Brother of *France*, in preſerving the Neutrality, ſo much deſired by him, but by Proroguing of his Parliament, which they knew well enough, was a tender Point: That yet not to be wanting to his Brother's Intereſts, and his own Engagements, he had adventured ſo far, as even twice to Prorogue them; and had withal expended moſt of his own Moneys, in endeavouring, if poſſible, againſt the next Meeting, or Seſſion of Parliament, to make a Party, ſo as to be able, in a Parliamentary Way, to over-match his Adverſaries, and thoſe of the Moſt Chriſtian King, his Brother; and not only that, but to be in a Condition to ſupport himſelf, during their Receſs, in the Figure he ought, as King of *England*, to make, both at home, and abroad, for his own Advantage, as well as that of the Moſt Chriſtian King's; and ſo carry on the Work of Mediation between him and the Confederates, as his Brother of *France* would have; as likewiſe the deſired Negotiations in *Holland*, to induce the Prince of *Orange*, to a Compliance, *&c.*

That

That they could not but know he was much involved in Debts by the laſt War, in Conjunction with them, againſt *Holland*, and other extraordinary Occaſions, by Troubles ariſing, and fomented chiefly by his adhering to his Brother of *France*'s Intereſt; and that he having Prorogued his Parliament upon his Account, and thereby put himſelf under an abſolute Neceſſity of being deprived of the Legal Aſſiſtance of his People; it was but very reaſonable and juſt they ſhould advance ſuch a Sum as might enable him, not only further to gratifie His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's Deſires, but alſo to ſatisfie in part his own extraordinary Neceſſities, and recompence him for the Subſidies he miſs'd of thereby again and again from his own Subjects.

And Laſtly, He demanded, at leaſt, ſuch a Re-inforcement as he had before received at the Concluſion of the Treaty with *France*, and that by way of Extraordinary, beſides his Annuity punctually paid: And of this he expected an exact Performance before the————————, beſides another Advance at the Beginning of that Seſſion; that ſo he might be able to make his Party good againſt all Oppoſers at their next Meeting, or elſe Prorogue them, without fear of wanting Money during their Receſs: And did further inſiſt, beſide ſome other Propoſals not

worth mentioning, upon his having Five or Six Millions of *Livres* allowed him with all convenient Speed, towards the Payment of his Debts, and the Retrieving of his loſt Credit. The Succeſs of which Remonſtrances and Propoſals, both from the King and Duke, your Lordſhip may, perhaps, be informed of another time, by

My LORD,

Your Honour's

Paris, Mar. 16. 1680. *N. S.*

Moſt humbly devoted Servant.

LETTER LIV.

Giving an Account, how far the French *complied with the King and Duke's Remonſtrances for Money; and how the ſame was reſented by them.*

My LORD,

YOur Lordſhip may refreſh your Memory, by calling to mind what I have ſome time ſince writ to you, concerning the King, and his Brother the Duke's preſſing of this Court for the Remittances agreed on, and what further

Additions

Additions they wanted, for Negotiating of Buſineſſes then in Agitation, with *Coleman*'s Countermine to part of their Deſigns. I am now further to acquaint your Honour, that the fore-mentioned Importunities, together with thoſe Cautions of *Coleman*, produced this Effect, that they ſent about half as much Money as they had advanced at firſt to each of them; telling them at the ſame time, that the Moſt Chriſtian King's Conveniency would not admit of a larger Remiſe at preſent; neither could he do it with that Privacy he would, but by his *Jews* at *Genoua*; and therefore deſired them to make what ſhift they could with that Proportion, till the Event of the Parliament was ſeen, whether it were Prorogued, or no.

But to the Duke they more particularly told, that if what was then remitted would not ſerve turn, and that he wanted more, rather than baulk his Deſigns, he might venture hardily on the Moſt Chriſtian King's Word, to lay out of his own Store; that he ſhould certainly be re-paid again at the time mentioned, with an Overplus: And that as for the Converſions he ſpake of, they waved them; and ſaid, Father *la Chaiſe* and that Society had provided now a Fund for that Work, without troubling them.

But to *Coleman*, not mentioning the Motion about Converſions, they only ſent a good Gratuity for the Prorogation before, and about the Sum of Twenty Thouſand Crowns Advance Extraordinary, in order to hire an Houſe, and to do other things, in order to the Corrupting of Parliament-men, *&c.* If he ſaw likelihood of it, he was to have ——ooo Crowns more, for to try Events; if he ſucceeded, he was promiſed ——oooo beſides; and for a Prorogation when judged neceſſary, for ſo long as deſired, another very conſiderable Sum, not particularly mentioned.

How far any of the fore-mentioned Perſons did proceed, by way of Compliance with this Court, I know no otherwiſe for the preſent than thus, (in general) that they have noted the two Royal Brothers were a little diſheartned to ſee their Friends on this ſide ſo backward to ſupply them; but that however, conſidering the Plauſibility of the French Excuſes, and their own preſſing Neceſſities. but more eſpecially the King's, they not only took what was ſent them, but reſolved alſo to proceed to oblige the *Meſſieurs* as much as they could, to the end they might induce them by Performances to ſend them more. The Effects of which dangerous Complaiſance, to ſay no worſe of it, the Nation has but too much felt already; and God knows

knows where it will terminate: I am ſure, your Lordſhip cannot but think it bodes ill; as does,

My LORD,

Paris, June 4. 1680. *N. S.* *Your very Humble, and moſt Obedient Servant.*

LETTER LV.

Of the Methods the Jeſuites uſed to promote Converſions in England, *and how St.* Germain *attempted King* Charles *II. With his Anſwer*, &c.

My LORD,

I Need not tell your Lordſhip that Father *St. Germain*, a Jeſuite, and one called out on purpoſe by the *French* King's Confeſſor, was the head Manager of Converſions (as they called them) and of their other wicked Deſigns upon our Country under the covert of that; and who having gained *Coleman*, now a fellow Domeſtick, into a cloſe Confidence and Compliance with him, ſoon found means to procure ſeveral other fit Complices, among the moſt conſiderable Orders and Parties of Men in the Kingdom, whether ſeated in, or reſorting to the famous Metropolis

thereof; and the better to draw in the Men, they were very induſtrious in plying the Women of Quality moſt fit for intreague, to declare themſelves for their Church, and under that pretence to make ſo many Partizans for *France* as they could; whoſe Grandeur chiefly they had in view, as to the beſt of my remembrance I have noted once and again to your Lordſhip: And not that of the Pope of *Rome*, or his Religion, which was only to ſerve for a Covert to the other, to the end their Practices might not be diſcovered, or countermined by the other foreign Miniſters of that Communion. And ſo good ſucceſs they had in thoſe Jugling-proceedings, that it bred in them indeed too much confidence of their going through with the reſt of their Work with the ſame eaſe, and ſo made them guilty of the weakneſſes of an over-haſty bragging and betraying of the Secrets of their Meaſures, which in ſo jealous a Nation as *England* is, for a Jeſuite, and a *French* one too to do it, was a very great Error in Policy; for St. *Germain*, and his Gang, having met with ſuch ſucceſs in their work as they dreamed not of, they hence, after having made ſure of the Duke, took the confidence to attempt the King himſelf, and were, as they imagined, heard very favourably by him, having been often told by him in Complement, that he looked upon their Religion as the moſt

moſt politick, and that they had really made him ſo much a Convert, as to think that the Proteſtant Religion produced but ill Subjects, *&c.* But finding for all this that the effect was not anſwerable to the hopeful and favourable incouragement, that he could not be brought actually to declare for them, they oftentimes railed at him in private in *England*, and when any of them came over hither occaſionally, the mildeſt Character they could give of him was, That he was a Prince that looked upon all Religion as a politick Cheat, to keep the World in awe, *&c.* but this was afterwards; for before upon ſuch Complements from the King, as aforeſaid, they were ſo over-joy'd, that it did indeed make them indiſcreet upon it, ſo far as to make it almoſt their common and ordinary Diſcourſe, not only to thoſe already fixed in their Opinion, and that were of a ſtay'd and reſerved Temper, but even to new Converts, and baulling talkative Women; nay, and inſerted it in their Letters too, both In-land and Foreign, that they had gained both Duke and King to their Religion; that they had fiſhed in the *Britiſh* Ocean with ſuch wonderful ſucceſs, that they fiſhed now only for the greater Fiſh of all, leaving the ſmall Fry to come of themſelves, having already catcht two Royal Fiſhes (the *Dolphin* and *Tiung*) with many ſuch like Expreſſions;

and it was very ordinary with them in Conferences of Controverſies, when they ſaw other Arguments have little effect, to urge the Example of the King and Duke; two ſuch wiſe Princes as they repreſented them, who knew and underſtood perfectly well the Principles of the *Reformed Religion*, and all the Arguments it was defenſible by, and yet had in a manner yeilded to the invincible force of the Truth, which appeared on their ſide; and had, ſaid they, againſt their Temporal Intereſts, to the evident hazards of their Perſons and Dignities, to which they preferred the Welfare of their more precious Souls, embraced the *Roman Catholick* Opinions. Yea, St. *Germain* proceeded ſo far in this kind of vanity, that he was in a fair way to be ruined for ever; but I have not leiſure at this Juncture to obſerve to your Lordſhip the Paſſages and Effects of that Conduct, but muſt refer it to my next, wherein I hope I ſhall not fail you, who am

My LORD,

Paris, July 17. 1680. *N. S.*

Your ever obliged, and moſt obedient Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LVI.

St. Germain *endeavouring to reclaim one* Luſancy *to the Church of* Rome, *whoſe Communion he had forſaken, uſed King* Charles *II's Turning* Papiſt *as an Argument; which the other diſcovering, forced* St. Germain *to flee into* France, *where he was puniſhed for his Indiſcretion for a Time.*

My LORD,

IT was not without ſome Difficulty that I have been able to perform the Promiſory Clauſe of my laſt Letter, in reference to Father *St. Germain*'s unſeaſonable Words concerning the King's Perverſion to the *Romiſh* Church; who, among others, more particularly repeated the ſaid Brags to a young Friar, then lately turned Proteſtant, in the *Savoy*, (as I learnt afterward;) and whom, for what peculiar Reaſons I could never come to know, he laboured with more than ordinary Application to reclaim back again from his pretended Hereſie, and at any rate to diſpatch him back into *France*. That ſame young Friar went by the Name of *Luſancy*; but *St. Germain* ſaid, his true Name was *Beau-Chateau*; and, it ſeems, had been *St. Germain*'s Scholar formerly, when Regent in the College of *Clermont*, in

in this City; and consequently, knowing more of *St. Germain*, than any other Man, perhaps, in *England*. It may be, the Fear of some Inconveniency to their Designs, by that Knowledge, and such Discourses as he might happen to have thereupon, was one Reason of the said Father's so great eagerness to remove him out of the way. In fine, How, *de facto*, and in truth, he managed the Business with him, I cannot affirm; but certain it is, that *Lusancy* pretended, that upon his deferring, as the other thought, a little too much his full Compliance with his Desires, he offered him Violence; and, with several Accomplices, threatned to stab or pistol him if he would not sign such a Recantation as he presented, and go along with those he brought with him, in order to his immediate Transportation: And that upon Complaint thereof to the Parliament, then Sitting, by a noble Lord, to whom *Lusancy* applied himself, and whom I need not name, I believe, to your Lordship, though perhaps you have never heard this Story before, in its full length, and by the Discovery of some other of their Practices, the said *Lusancy* forced *St. Germain* to flee; and was the Cause of some Stir against Popish Priests and Emissaries at that time; which were the *Præludium* to what followed afterwards, in the time of the late Conspiracy imputed to the said Party. And

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no leſs certain it is on the other ſide, that *St. Germain*'s Imprudence and ill Conduct, both in that and other things, was ſo defenceleſs and inexcuſable, that he was a long time in ſome Diſgrace with the Duke and Dutcheſs, with Father *la Chaiſe*, and the whole Society of his Order; to whom he was forced, by a long and laborious Apology, to vindicate himſelf as well as he could; particularly, about the unhappy Affair of *Luſancy*, and his raſh and inconſiderate Speeches of the King and Duke of *York*, which he compiled with much Artifice and Eloquence; and made me cloath it in the Engliſh Tongue, to the end he might ſatisfie his Friends of both Nations of his Innocence of thoſe foul Aſperſions caſt upon him, as he would have it: Yet he could never ſo ſolidly refute what was ſo plainly objected againſt him, but that ſtill there remained Cauſes ſufficient to ſuſpect, that the Aſſertions of ſuch as accuſed him were not without ſome real Grounds. And indeed, though they were glad to have the ſame paſs for a plauſible Defence among Secular Perſons, for their common Reputation, upon which that ſubtile Society ſo much value and eſteem themſelves; yet within their own Cloiſters they were ſo little ſatisfied with his ſpecious Pleas, that they mulcted him, as they uſually do their own Members upon failure of Conduct, by ſending him to and fro,

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and employing him in low and contemptible things, which only *Juniors* uſed to perform; and were a long time before they admitted him to any conſiderable Poſt again; though at laſt, after ſufficient Mortification, upon his uninterrupted and vehement Importunities, to be reſtored again once more to their good Opinion; and repeated Promiſes to be more aſſiduous in their Service, and careful of his Conduct for the future, and becauſe he had been at firſt with *Coleman*, the chief Author of the Duke's being drawn into a cloſe and ſeparate Intrigue with the Court of *France*, by the Intervention of Father *la Chaiſe*, and knew beſt of any the Secrets and Myſtery of it, he was again intruſted to manage the Continuation of that Correſpondence, by the means of *Coleman*, his old Friend's receiving all Letters from him, and tranſmitting all thoſe of Father *la Chaiſe* and his Creatures in *France*, to *Coleman* and his Maſter, and others with whom they had any Intrigue in *England*; among whom was one Lady *Glaſcow*, who received and diſperſed moſt of the Letters which were not incloſed in *Coleman*'s Pacquet, and which were commonly numerous enough, directed to her under ſix or ſeven ſeveral Names, changing every time, or every other time at leaſt, the Name, and the Direction. Of which Correſpondence I may, perhaps, be able to give your Lordſhip a fuller Account

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another time; preſuming this cannot but find Acceptance, though from ſo mean a Perſon as is,

My LORD,

Paris, Sept. 2. 1680. N. S.

Your Lordſhip's
Moſt Devoted and
Humble Servant.

LETTER LVII.

Arguments uſed to the Duke of York, *againſt Marrying his Daughter to the Prince of* Orange.

My LORD,

I Confeſs, I do not well remember when it was that I gave your Lordſhip an Account of the Duke's being firſt drawn into a cloſe Correſpondence with *France*; and I am as much to ſeek how and when the following Arguments were urged upon him, no further than the Circumſtance of the Subject does diſcover: But Time may unravel all. However, this, I find, was urged firſt on him:

That it would be of equal Danger to His Royal Highneſs, if not more, to give his Daughter to the Prince of *Orange*, than to let

let her be in the *French* Diſpoſal; and that his Brother, the King, would be involved in equal Trouble on that Account, as on the other: For that if ſhe were given to the Prince of *Orange*, without firſt engaging him in the Intereſts of *France*, that thereby he would have a double Claim to the Crown; that of Courſe the King, his Brother, muſt be drawn into a War with *France*; and that by ſo doing, both the Royal Brethren would loſe for ever the *French* King's Friendſhip and Support in caſe of Extremity, which they would infallibly be reduced to by ſuch a War, or by but making a Shew of it; for if it went on, whether there were Cauſe, or no, there would be Jealouſies of the Duke's Correſponding with *France*; yea, and of the King too: And that, after all, ſuch a Match would be interpreted but for a piece of Policy, only to hide from the People their Correſpondence with *France*; and would never cure their Jealouſies, nor take off the Fears they had of a Popiſh Succeſſion by his new Dutcheſs; but add Strength and Courage to them to oppoſe Remedies againſt it. That thereupon, when they had the King once in a War, they would not give him any Money to carry it on, unleſs they ſaw the laying of it out, and had, in a manner, the Adminiſtration of the War in their own Hands; in which His Highneſs would be but a Cypher, and would

would never be truſted. That then, not content with that, it was not to be doubted, but that the Excluſion of himſelf, and of his Heirs by the Second Bed, unleſs educated in the Proteſtant Religion, would likewiſe be hotly urged in the next place, in favour of a Proteſtant Prince ſo doubly Allied to the Crown of *England*, a profeſſed Enemy of *France*, and a Native of *Holland*, the Country, next their own, ſo much adored by them. That ſuch an Alliance would ſtrengthen that Faction, that was already but too ſtrong. That ſuch an Excluſion being preſs'd, the King muſt either grant it, or deny it; if he granted it, as it was to be feared he might, then was His Highneſs, and the Heirs of his Religion, loſt without Recovery; and then it would be out of the *French* King's Power, as well as Inclination, to aſſiſt him, after having been ſo diſobliged, againſt the Power of *England* and *Holland* united; neither could he propoſe that Advantage to himſelf, be it as it will: That if the King ſhould reſiſt the ſaid Importunity about Excluſion, that then he would expoſe himſelf to the Diſtractions of a Civil War, which might end both in the Ruin of the Royal Family, and the Monarchy it ſelf; for that the Republicans would not fail to lift up their Creſts again in thoſe Troubles: And that beſides the Intereſt of the Prince of *Orange*, the Duke of *Monmouth*, being already very popular, might

might be tempted by ſo fair an Opportunity, to put in for a Pretender to the Succeſſion; and that it was not impoſſible that the King, if he ſaw him favoured by the People, might be tempted too to prefer the Intereſt of a Son, before that of a Brother; and a Brother too, for whom he muſt be neceſſitated to undergo ſo much Vexation and Trouble, and run ſo great a Riſque to defend. That in the mean while, *England* being in a War with *France*, that King, inſtead of helping him, muſt be obliged, in his own Defence, to foment thoſe Troubles, and abet his Enemies. That perhaps he might think ſome of theſe Fears but imaginary; but that His Highneſs might aſſure himſelf, they had better Intelligence than he in that Caſe, and were very well ſatisfied that all the ſaid Parties were ready diſpoſed, and had concerted all their Deſigns againſt him; and that they were abetted by Men of the greateſt power and Intereſt in the three Kingdoms; and then, of what Power and Influence ſuch plauſible and popular Pretenſions would be among the People, when promoted and advanced by ſuch Men, His Royal Highneſs could not be ignorant of.

That therefore, all ſummed up, and duly compared, the Dangers attending the Eſpouſing his Daughter to the Prince of *Orange* were as great, if not conſiderably greater, than thoſe that would be incurred by

by giving her up to the Diſpoſal of the *French* King; for more could not be feared from that, than what had been mention'd: Therefore they conjured him, as he tender'd his own Good and Safety, or that of his Poſterity, or of his Brother, or, laſtly, of the hopeful Beginnings of the Catholick Religion in theſe Kingdoms, that he ſhould be perſuaded, and alſo perſuade his Brother, to take the Council of *France*, both in the Diſpoſal of the Princeſs, and other things relating thereto; for that the Danger of adhering to the French King was no greater than that on the other ſide, but that the Aſſiſtance on his ſide would be great and powerful, as well as Cordial; whereas it never could be in the other Party's Power, much leſs in their Intereſt or Inclination, to afford him any Succour in his Troubles, but rather to add Oil to the Flame: And above all, never to be ſo raſh, as to ſuffer himſelf to be tempted to conſent to a War againſt *France*, for that the Factions would then have their Ends of him, as having a full Opportunity put into their hands thereby to compleat his Ruin without Controul. Theſe were the Arguments uſed to His Royal Highneſs, againſt the Match with the Prince of *Orange*: And with which I ſhall at preſent conclude, who am,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt Humble Servant.

Paris, Aug. 4. 1679. *N. S.*

LETTER LVIII.

Propoſals made to the Duke of York, *about conſenting to have his Daughter, the Lady* Mary, *privately Trapanned into* France, &c.

My LORD,

I Gave in my laſt to your Lordſhip a Relation of the Remonſtrances uſed to the Duke, in general, againſt his conſenting to have his Daughter married to the Prince of *Orange:* I ſhall now endeavour to oblige your Lordſhip with ſome new Propoſals made to him upon that Head.

1. That the Duke ſhould uſe all the Power and Intereſt he had with the King, his Brother, to let his Daughter, the Lady *Mary*, take a Voyage into *France*, to take the Waters of *Bourbon*; or elſe to conſent ſhe might be privily ſent away by the Duke, as againſt his Knowledge and Will; and that then they would get her ſpeedily married; which putting things paſt Retrieve, Matters might the better, by good Management, be compoſed, and made up to all their Satisfactions.

2. That to this purpoſe the *French* King would ſend a moſt ſplendid Embaſſy into *England*, of one of the chief Peers of his Realm, with a very numerous Train of choice Nobility. But if the King conſent-

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ed publickly to that Propoſition, the Princeſs might go over in the ſaid Ambaſſador's Company: Or if he gave private Conſent, ſhe might be conveyed away, as in the firſt Article.

3. If the King ſhould by no means conſent to it, that then the Duke ſhould contrive a Way to get her ſeized and ſhipped off at the Ambaſſador's Departure, without the King's Privity or Knowledge.

4. That if it were done by the King's Conſent, the Sum of Five and twenty Millions of *Livres* ſhould be, without fail, remitted to him, at two Payments; the firſt, as ſoon as the Princeſs ſhould arrive in the Kingdom of *France*; and the other, three Months after. And that the King and Duke in that Caſe ſhould ſeem highly concerned, and diſpoſed to declare War againſt *France* on that Account; and with the Money ſent, raiſe Forces, as if it were for the War, and call to the Parliament for Mony to maintain it; which if they granted, to take it, *(there was no doubt of their Conſent to that:)* After which, the *French* King was to ſend a very ſubmiſſive Embaſſage to *England*, offering to make ample Satisfaction for the Injury, and to ſtrike up a Peace with *Holland* at any rate: Upon which, our King was to take upon him to be appeaſed, and to pretend the *Dutch* were in the fault that he did not make War.

5. That then, if there ſhould happen any

Motions for Excluſion, that His Majeſty might make uſe of the Money, and of the Forces raiſed as aforeſaid, for his own Security: And that if any Rebellion happen'd, he might be aſſured, the *French* King would ſend him both Men and Money enough in caſe of Need.

6. That if it were done without the King's Conſent, he, the Duke, ſhould pretend himſelf wholly ignorant of the Rape, and ſeem as much concerned as the King for Satisfaction.

7. But that if the King ſhould be ſo diſpleaſed with His Highneſs, as to ſide with the adverſe Party againſt him, after he had ſtood his Ground as long as he could, and made as many Friends as was poſſible, that then he ſhould privately retire to *Scotland* or *Ireland*, and raiſe Arms there, where he ſhould be powerfully aſſiſted, both with Men and Money, from the *French* King; who would likewiſe uſe Means to raiſe Diviſions among his Enemies, by ſeveral Methods they had concerted; and ſuddenly diſcourage them all, by an unexpected Peace with *Holland*; tho' there was but little Proſpect that Things ſhould come to this Extremity.

8. That the Princeſs, ſtill the better to appeaſe the Heats in *England*, ſhould, upon her Marriage, have, in ample manner, a Proteſtant Chapel allowed her; and that at the ſame time, the Proteſtants in the Kingdom of *France* ſhould be uſed with extraordinary

ordinary Kindneſs and Favour for her ſake, till a general Peace, or other fit time to take off the Mask, were come.

9. That the better to take off the Edge of the *Engliſh* Fury to a War with *France*, beſides the Peace to be made between the *French* and the *Dutch*, a third War was to be raiſed by the *Hollanders*, againſt *England*; and they put with might and main upon new Encroachments and Inſolencies againſt the *Engliſh*.

10. That the better to cover all this, the Duke was not only to make a Semblance, but really to go to the Proteſtant Church again, and to give out with a full Cry, that he had been moſt maliciouſly traduced, and that he never was reconciled to the Church of *Rome*; and that his Non-compliance in ſome things lately put upon him, did only ariſe in that he conceived ſuch things were not to be impoſed upon a Prince, as on a Subject.

I have had the Opportunity, my Lord, to ſee ſeveral other things, of leſſer Conſequence, projected here, for the Management of this Affair to the Intereſt of the *French* Court; with which I ſhall not trouble your Lordſhip, and remain,

My LORD,

Paris, Aug. 13. 1679. *N. S.* *Your very humble Servant.*

LETTER LIX.

Arguments uſed by the French *Emiſſaries in* England, *to the Royal and Church of* England *Party, againſt the matching of the Lady* Mary *with the Prince of* Orange.

My LORD,

THe *French* Emiſſaries finding (notwithſtanding the ſtrong oppoſition made by them to the matching of the Lady *Mary* with his Highneſs the Prince of *Orange*, as I have ſome time ſince informed your Lordſhip,) that there was a very ſtrong Current in the Nation for that Allyance, and having informed their Principals in the *French* Court therewith, they had freſh Inſtructions ſent them, to gain, if poſſible, the time deſired by them, which was till a General Peace were concluded, and to ply the Royaliſts, and high Members of the Church of *England*, not only cloſe upon that Head, but their Inſtructions were reduced to theſe Branches.

1. They were to repreſent the Match as diſhonourable, and too much reflecting on the Honour of Crowned Heads, to match a Daughter in ſo fair a way to be Heireſs to three Crowns, to a Prince who was not only no Sovereign, bnt deſcended of a Family

Family which had diſtinguiſhed it ſelf chiefly by heading a Rebellion againſt his lawful Prince, and who was himſelf but the chief Officer of a Government ſo hateful to all Kings, as a Common-Wealth, and that of one founded by Rebellion too; that ſuch an Allyance muſt needs be more particularly diſhonourable to the Royal Family of *England*, which had ſo lately and deeply ſuffered by a Rebellion moved againſt it by their own People, chiefly out of an Emulation to be like thoſe Rebels; That indeed King *Charles* I. did match his Daughter to the preſent Prince of *Orange*'s Father; but it was becauſe he was involved in Troubles, and had not time or opportunity to diſpoſe of her better, and thought by that Match to pleaſe the people, appeaſe the Faction animated againſt him, and by ſuch a proteſtant Match allay the Jealouſies conceived of his being popiſhly inclined, or having Leagued with popiſh Powers to their prejudice; and laſtly, obtain ſome Aſſiſtance from the States of *Holland* in his Diſtreſs; and yet that after all his projection hereby, that Match was condemned by moſt of his Friends, as highly Diſhonourable, and of very ill Example and Conſequence, and is charged upon him as one of the great Errours of his Reign, and therefore by no means to be reiterated by a new one of the ſame kind.

2. They were to remonſtrate, That the Prince of *Orange* was bred in Presbyterian Principles, and to exaggerate, with all the terrible Circumſtances that could be ſuppoſed, the danger the Church of *England* and Epiſcopacy would be in by the acceſſion of ſuch a Prince to the Crown; *Presbyterians* being no leſs paſſionate Enemies to the Church of *England* than Papiſts, and being much the more dangerous of the two, as being incomparably the more numerous; the ſtrange ſucceſs they lately had in effecting ſo total a Subverſion as they did of the Epiſcopal Church in the laſt Reign under rebellious Leaders, being too ſenſible a proof of both what they could, and what they would do again more effectually and more irrecoverably, when headed by a lawful Superior, and ſtrengthned by the aſſiſtance of their Brethren in *Holland*: This, my Lord, is the ſubſtance of the Inſtructions ſent from hence to their Emiſſaries in *England*, for the managing of the forementioned part, and with which I ſhall conclude this Epiſtle, who am

My LORD,

Paris, Aug. 23. 1679. *N. S.*

Your Honours to ſerve You.

LETTER

LETTER LX.

Inſtructions given to the French *Emiſſaries, whereby to manage the Diſſenters and Republican Party in* England, *in reference to the Prince of* Orange's *matching with the Lady* Mary.

My LORD,

I Have in my laſt given your Lordſhip an Account of the *French* Intrigues, in managing the Royal and Church of *England* Party, in reſpect to the Match with the Prince of *Orange*; here follows their Inſtructions to their Agents, with the Diſſenters and *Republican* Party upon the ſame Head. To them they were to uſe many of the Arguments uſed to thoſe of *Holland*, of which hereafter; and make them believe, if they could, that if the P. of *Orange* ſhould come to the Crown of *England*, notwithſtanding his Humility now, he would fly higher at Abſolute Power than any before him, or that the preſent King, or his Brother, could; that under an humble appearance he ſubtilly hid an aſpiring Mind, and that having in many things encroached already upon the Power of the States General, he would totally oppreſs them, and by that acceſſion of Strength raiſe

raiſe his Authority in *England* to what pitch he pleaſed, and Adieu to all hopes of a Common-wealth there, when that of *Holland* ſhould be ſubject to his Scepter, and Adieu to all expectation of making *Presbytery* the predominant Religion there; for that it was almoſt incompatible with a moderate Monarchy, much leſs with Abſolute Power; and that whatever Principles the Prince had been bred in, as to Religion, though he might like them well enough as a Member of a State, with whoſe Conſtitutions they perfectly agreed; it was not to be doubted, that when he came to be a Monarch, and ſo powerful an one too, as the *United Provinces* thrown into the weight of three Crowns would make him, but he would, like moſt Princes, make his Religion conform to the Model of his Politicks, and when he became a Monarch, and ſo great an one too, take up Monarchs principles, which could be no other than Popiſh, or ſuch as exceed them, if poſſible, in malignity, *viz.* Thoſe of the Tantivy Sons of the Church of *England*, none elſe agreeing with deſpotick Rule; ſo that whatever hopes they might flatter themſelves with from ſuch a Match, and the Prince's acceſſion to the Throne; they ſhould find themſelves ſo far diſappointed, as not to have any reaſon left them to expect as much as a Tolleration in Religion, and the Freedom

of

of their Conſciences: Which with my humble Reſpects to your Lordſhip, is all I have to Communicate at this time, who am in all lowly Obſervance,

My LORD,

Paris, Sept. 5. 1679. N. S.

Your Honour's to Command.

POST-SCRIPT.

My LORD,

SInce I had finiſhed my Letter, I happening occaſionally to run over ſome of our Minutes, I thought fit to ſub-join what I meet with there briefly inſerted, in order to the management of meer Politicians and *Adiaphorites* in Religion, upon the account of the Prince's Match; and to them the forementioned Emiſſaries were to ſuggeſt on the contrary, that the Prince though he ſhould in time by virtue of the ſaid Match come to be King of *England*, yet that it could not be thought but that ſtill he would continue a *Dutch*-Man in all his Inclinations, ſacrifice our Commerce and Intereſt to thoſe of that Nation; yea, and perhaps part with the chief Prerogatives of the Crown to make the King of *England* like a Doge of *Venice*, or

or *Dutch* Stadt-holder, *&c.* which though ſufficiently ridiculous I could not forbear noting to your Lordſhip, who am

My LORD,

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXI.

The Arguments uſed in Holland *by the* French *Emiſſaries to the* Loveſtein *Faction againſt the Prince of* Orange's *matching with the Lady* Mary, *&c.*

My LORD,

IF it was any pleaſure to your Lordſhip to peruſe the Accounts I have already given you, of the Stratagems of this Court to incite the Church of *England* and *Diſſenting Parties* againſt the Match with the Prince of *Orange*, as I am deſirous, and I hope not unwilling, to interpret your ſilence in that regard to imply it; I cannot think it will be leſs to your Honour's ſatisfaction, to underſtand how they managed the ſame Affair in *Holland*, where no leſs Subtilty and Addreſs was wanting than in *England* to divert a Match, that predicted no good Omen to *France*, as they imagined; the Party in that Republick

lick which their Emiſſaries had Inſtructions to work upon, were the *Laveſtein Faction*, to whom nevertheleſs they were to addreſs themſelves very cautiouſly and covertly, and firſt to inſinuate to them, and by them to the State-Party.

That indeed it was true the Illuſtrious Princes of the Houſe of *Naſſau* had not only been the firſt Founders, but alſo the great preſervers of their Common-wealth, and that it could not be denied but that the preſent Prince of *Orange* had very much contributed to its late Recovery, after it had been brought to the very brink of Deſtruction; and that they were fully convinced that ſame Family muſt remain a neceſſary Bulwark to their Common-wealth, ſo long as their Intereſts ſhould continue inſeperably intwiſted with thoſe of the State; but if they ſhould be ſo blinded as to conſent, or but tacitely give way to any Steps that might alter thoſe of the Prince into any other Channel; that ſame Houſe might, in proceſs of time, prove the fatal Cadency and Diſſolution, as it had been the happy Riſe and Glory of that flouriſhing State. That the implacability of the *Spaniſh* Royal Family againſt thoſe that have once offended them, and their bloody and unjuſt Proſcription of the noble Houſe of *Orange*, had ſo firmly cemented the Intereſts of the Princes of that Family with thoſe of the States during the

Wars

Wars with *Spain*, that there could not poſſibly any Danger ariſe to them from that Houſe, how much ſoever they were intruſted with the Authority of the States, they being then beſt ſecured by the Greatneſs and Power of that. Nay, and that after the Peace made between that Republick, and the Crown of *Spain*, there could be no Danger from thoſe Princes neither, ſo long as they matched into inferior Princes Families, as thoſe of *Germany*, *&c.* which might add Strength, but never could Power enough to the Princes of *Orange* to cruſh the State, or in the leaſt divide from its true Intereſts. But that it might be of the dangerouſeſt Conſequence, if any of them were ſuffered to match into the Family of any Crowned Head, and eſpecially of any near Neighbour to the Republick; for that would be an effectual Means to fill their Heads with aſpiring Thoughts, and great Deſigns to Aggrandize themſelves, and might afford them Power enough to put them in Execution; a Temptation too ſtrong for almoſt any active ſpirited Prince to reſiſt: And therefore ſuch an one as this preſent Prince ought by no means to be expoſed to by any wiſe States-men, whoſe Intereſt it was to keep him from it, and who had Cunning enough to put him by it. That never any of His preſent Highneſs's Predeceſſors have been ever as much as ſuſpected of aſpiring at any Power over the

the Commonwealth; but what tended to its greater Security, and for the Elevation of the Majeſty of the Republick, without the leaſt Glances of aſſuming any to themſelves, unleſs it were His Highneſs's Father; who, in all probability, was animated thereunto by his matching with a Daughter of *England*: And that his Ambition might have proved fatal to the Republick, beyond Retrieve, if his immature Death, and other ſeaſonable Providences, had not intervened. That the Influence of that Match had proved very detrimental to that illuſtrious Houſe, by ſtirring up ſuch a Jealouſie in the States againſt them, as would not ſuffer them to admit the preſent Prince, for a long time, to enjoy the Places of Honour, Authority and Truſt formerly ſo well maintained and officiated by his noble Anceſtors: And that, at the ſame time, it had proved as pernicious to the States themſelves, in creating and nouriſhing Factions among them, and Endeavours to keep up the Republick upon a new Model, without *Captain-General*, *Stadtholder*, *Admiral*, *&c.* and to deprive themſelves of the ſo neceſſary and Auſpicious Aſſiſtance and Conduct of that moſt Illuſtrious Houſe; and thereby expoſed even almoſt to be made a Prey to the dangerous Ambition of the *French* Monarch.

And therefore now, when they had ſo newly re-enter'd into their true Intereſts, and

and happily re-fixed all things on the old Foundation, by reſtoring the preſent Prince to the Dignity of his Anceſtors, and calling him to the Helm of the Tempeſt-beaten State, and had by his Courage, Conduct and Intereſt recovered the Commonwealth to a very hopeful Condition of Power and Proſperity again, it would be no leſs than a Madneſs to venture the Ruin of all thoſe fair Hopes, by a ſecond Match with *England*, when by the former they had been almoſt all Shipwrack'd; and to ſuffer a Prince who was now wholly their own, to eſpouſe, in ſuch a Marriage as was then in Agitation, a Foreign Intereſt; and ſuch as, in all probability, could not, in time, but interfere with theirs: And therefore deſired it might not be.

1. Becauſe, though the Prince's Intentions ſhould happen to continue never ſo right and firm to the Intereſt of the Republick, yet this Match could not but be ſtill very detrimental both to him and them, by cauſing incurable Jealouſies, Factions and Animoſities amongſt them, without end; and which could not but be of pernicious Conſequence to them both.

2. That by reaſon of the little probability of the Duke of *York*'s having any Vivacious Male Iſſue, this would give the Prince ſuch a near Proſpect of the *Britiſh* Crowns, that it could not but engage him, in that View, upon all Occaſions, to ſtrain his

his Power and Intereſt in the *United Provinces* to the utmoſt for the advantage of the *Engliſh* Nation, to the prejudice of the *Dutch* increaſe of Power and Intereſt.

3. That if he ever came to be King of *England*, the Power he would thereby obtain, added to that he had already in the *United Provinces* as Stadt-holder, Captain General, *&c.* and to the great Influence he had among the Soldiery in the States pay, would undoubtedly be a great temptation to him for to reduce that State under the *Engliſh* Crown, and influence the others to aſſiſt him in it; And that if he ſhould have Iſſue by his Princeſs, as it was likely enough he might, the danger under that Circumſtance would be in a manner inevitable.

Its likely, my Lord, our Politicians here forſaw very great Difficulties would ariſe in making any manner of Impreſſions upon the States againſt the Prince's Match, for by the foreſaid Remonſtrances it does appear to me their Maſter-battery was turned on that ſide; but though all their Politicks have failed them for the prevention of the Marriage, yet they have not failed to put ſome of theſe Arguments forwards, to render the Prince, and all his Proceedings ſuſpect to the States, and they have already bragged; that all the Conſtancy his Highneſs is well known to be Maſter of, will find work enough to

ver-come the Jealouſies entertained of him, (and which they are reſolved never to be wanting on their part to foment) and to make it believe that all he has acted ſince his marriage has been to the aggrandizing of himſelf and his Authority, and the Diminution of that of the Republick; I fear I have already too much tranſgreſt by my tediouſneſs, and ſhall therefore only ſubſcribe my ſelf, as I am in ſincerity

Paris, Sept. 20. 1679. *N. S.*

My LORD,

Your Lordſhips,

Moſt humble Servant.

LETTER LXII.

Of the Solemn Embaſſy ſent by the French *King to King* Charles *II. in the Year* 1677, *in order to break off the Match with the Prince of* Orange, *&c.*

My LORD,

PUrſuant to what I have already mentioned to your Lordſhip of the Deſigns concerted between his Royal Highneſs, and the *French* King, about getting of the Lady *Mary*, by a Stratagem, into *France*, if their other Meaſures about hindring

dring the Match were broken, was the late ſolemn Embaſſy ſent over from hence into *England*, whereof the Count *d' Eſtree* was the head, accompanied with the Duke *de Vendoſme*, the Archbiſhop of *Rheims*, one of our great Miniſter, the Marquiſs *de Louvois*'s Sons, and at leaſt fifty Lords more of principal Note; and whoſe publick inſtructions, tho' they imported nothing more then a great Complement, and ſome overtures about forbiding any recruits, to be ſent over to our Land Forces in the ſervice of the Confederates; yet privately they were to endeavour a *French* match, and if they ſaw they could not ſucceed therein, to concert cloſer meaſures with the Duke, about puting in practiſe what he had before conſented to, about geting the Princeſs his daughter privately convey'd away, in Company of this Embaſſador into *France*; and perhaps your Lordſhip will not be diſſatisfied, if I recount what I have heard diſcourſed one day at this Court, between our Commiſſioner and ſome other Courtiers concerning the Embaſſy. Said one of them to theother, 'What needed ſo ſplendid and coſtly an 'Embaſſy at this time of day to the King of 'England, when there is ſo little hopes that 'he durſt give his Conſent to what we de-'ſire of him; if he were of himſelf diſ-'poſed thereto: Yes, ſays the other, 'Twill 'be well worth the Coſt let things go as

'they will upon this occaſion, for 'tis a 'greater honour our King now does to the 'King of *England*, than he has ever yet 'done to any other Prince, or ever to the 'Emperor himſelf when at Peace with him; 'and ſuch anHonour cannot but work ſen-'ſibly upon the heart of a Prince, who is 'ſo eaſily wrought upon, and may work 'ſome good Effects for us in time, if not 'for the preſent; And however, if the 'worſt come to the worſt,this extraordinary 'Honour now done him by our Monarch, 'will make his Parliament and People ſo 'fully perſuaded that he hath entred into an 'extraordinary Engagement with him,that 'all he can ſay, or do, will never convince 'them of the contrary, or induce them to 'truſt him with Money to make War a-'gainſt *France*, for fear he ſhould uſe it 'againſt themſelves; and not only ſo, but 'it would make him as ſuſpected among 'the Confederates, that none of them, 'from hence forward,would truſt him,either 'for an Aſſiſtant Allie, or Mediator, and ſo 'would render him of inſignificant force to 'thwart our Deſigns. But the King did for once Trick the Trickers, by the care he had taken of the Princeſs, as I ſhall note elſewhere to your Lordſhip, and by his ſudden marrying her to his Highneſs the *Prince of Orange*, ſo much to the ſurprize and diſappointment of this Court, that I can-

cannot expreſs it, and therefore muſt conclude, ſubſcribing my ſelf

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble

Paris, Dece. 7. 1679. N. S. *and moſt devoted Servant.*

LETTER LXIII.

Of the Popiſh Plot, and Father Kelley's *Menaces.*

My LORD,

THE diſcourſe about the Plot cannot be more in *England* than 'tis here, but the Particulars of the proſecution of it, your Lordſhip muſt know much better than I; I do not queſtion, but there is Villany enough at the bottom of it, but our Miniſters are as deep in the ſudds as any other whatſoever, who by their ſlights, and wicked practiſes, have drawn the *Engliſh* Papiſts into ſuch Combinations, as hath put the Nation into ſuch ferments, incurable Jealouſies and diviſions, as hath effectually diverted the *Engliſh* from hunting the *French* in *Flanders*, by imploying them to hunt the Papiſts, and Jeſuits at home, as they have been pleaſed to word it: My Lord,

It may not perhaps be unpleasing to give your Honour an account of some passages that happened between one Father *Kelley* an *Irish* Priest, and my self in this City lately concerning the King, *&c.* I know very well, that there were, and and perhaps may be still some of that name in *England*, but this same has lived for some years at *Paris*, by St. *Jean de Greve*; and tho' a Priest is a great Banker, paying most of the pensions for secret service transmitted to the *English* Romanists, but chiefly to *Irish* Papists in *England* and *Ireland*, and who by his discourse upon the late *English* Fleet and Armies being ready, and the War likely to be declared against this Kingdom, was pleased then to say somewhat in relation to this Conspiracy, that I have little thought on till very lately, and that may give your Honour some light into the designs of this Court; say'd he, the King of *France* will find him (meaning our King) work enough by Divisions at home, and discovering, if needs be, his and his Brothers intreagues in *France*, and does not care tho' he expose all the Roman Catholicks in the three Kingdoms, to a general and hot persecution, so long as, like the *Turkish Asaphi*, they serve to blunt the *English* Men's fury, and divert them from thwarting the designs of the potent Catholick Kingdom of *France*, which would afterward set all right again, but that he was

in

in hopes by their hunting of Papiſts, they would never leave hunting the King and his Brother too, if they proved refractory, till they had brought them to take Sanctuary in a ſtricter Alliance with the *French* King than ever, as their only Safe-guard; and that it was in the *French* King's power to ſpring up a Plot next day, to give the King of *England* Game enough for his life time, for that the Mines and Trains were already lay'd, and that there needed only putting fire to them, *&c.* I am very ſorry I could not have oblieged your Lordſhip ſooner with theſe paſſages, which yet I hope comes not too late, but it may in ſome meaſure be grateful from

My LORD,

Paris, Feb. 28. 1678. *N. S.* *Your Humble Servant.*

LETTER LXIV.

Of the Duke of York's *being Commanded to retire to* Bruxells *in the Year* 1679, *and of the Promiſes made him by the King before his departure.*

My LORD,

I Know not how Matters go in *England*, nor what the Sence of the people is in general concern the Duke's retiring to

Bruxells, but I can aſſure your Lordſhip, they ſeem to be mightily allarmed here at it, tho' they put a good meen upon it. Perhaps your Lordſhip may know much more of the Secret of this Journey than I can inform you, but if what is tranſmitted hither by the Agents of our Grand Miniſter be acceptable, they give us this account; That the Earl of *D*—— was the perſon who adviſed the King to remove his Royal Highneſs from his preſence, and that his Reaſons for it were, that the Parliament might have no pretence for to complain of his Majeſty, that he had not taken all the Meaſures neceſſary for the Security of their Religion and Liberty; but they tell us, how true, I leave it to your Lordſhips profound Judgment to determine, that the Earl by the foreſaid Adviſe did not ſo much conſult the King and Kingdoms true Intereſt, as he did to pleaſe the Parliament, with whom he was at odds, becauſe of the Money received to disband the Army, and the *French* Alliance; finding now by Experience, that that Artifice of his in bringing the Plot upon the ſtage in order to amuſe them, had failed; They further inform us, that the Duke was mightily ſurprized at the Meſſage for his departure, and made ſome difficulty to bring himſelf to reſolve to obey it, but that at length recollecting a better Temper, it gave his faſt friends an Opportunity

tunity to adviſe him; That though it were at that juncture neceſſary he ſhould obey the King, yet it was no leſs prudent that he ſhould, in ſo doing, take all neceſſary Precautions, not to abandon his Fortune to the diſcretion of his Enemies; that they did not doubt but that the Duke of *Monmouth* would puſh hard, to get himſelf declared Legitimate by the enſuing Parliament; That the buſineſs of the *Excluſion* would be renewed, and that there was room enough to fear, leaſt his Retreat might be rather interpreted for the flight of a guilty Perſon, than for the Obedience of a ſubmiſſive Subject; that therefore it was expedient he ſhould get the King firſt to promiſe him that he would declare, and get it Recorded too in the Courts of Juſtice, that he had never been Married to the Duke of *Monmouth*'s Mother; That he would by no means conſent to the *Excluſion* that was now likely to be preſt upon him; and laſtly, that he ſhould give him expreſs Order in writing to require his Retirement. All which, they ſay, he has happily accompliſhed, the truth whereof time muſt determine, whereunto I leave it, who am

My LORD,

Paris, Apr. 6. 1679. N. S. *Your Humble Servant.*

LETTER

LETTER LXV.

Of the Noiſe of King Charles's *Divorce from Queen* Katherine.

My LORD,

THE buſineſs of the King's Divorce has made a mighty noiſe on this ſide, and I cannot with any certainty inform your Lordſhip, which way this Court ſtands affected; for I find, on the one hand, Inſtructions given to their Agents in *England* to inſinuate to the King, but yet very tenderly, what a piece of Unjuſtice it would be ſo to diſgrace an innocent harmleſs Princeſs, to whom he had been lawfully married, and who had, with ſo much patience, bore the Infirmities that attended him; and that the conſequent of ſuch a Divorce would perhaps be worſe than the Divorce it ſelf, ſeeing a Brother would be baulked of the juſt hopes he had, after his Majeſty's death, of aſcending the *Engliſh* Throne, *&c.* But ſince, my Lord, having found the Parliament, and Privy Council, diſpoſed very much to favour ſuch an Action, they gave their Emiſſaries, of another ſtamp, directions to incite the King to it, and to promiſe to find him out a Princeſs of this Courts recom-

commendation and procurement, in hopes, by that means, to ſet the two Brothers at variance, and to raiſe new Factions and Diſputes about Succeſſion; and if they ſaw he would not conſent, yet they had their Creatures ready to whiſper it in the Duke's ear as a great ſecret, that if it were not for them, he would have conſented thereunto; but how far theſe Politicks have been practiſed, your Lordſhip can obſerve much better than I at ſuch a diſtance, who am

My LORD,

Paris, Mar. 2.
1680. *N. S.*

Your ever obliged, and

moſt humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LXVI.

Of the Earl of Shaftsbury's *being Calumniated by the* French *Agents to King* Charles II. *in order to put him out from being Preſident of the Council, and from all Publick Adminiſtration.*

My LORD,

THE joy conceived by the Miniſters of this Court, at the diſplacing of my Lord of *Shaftsbury* from his great Office of Preſident of the King's Council, and conſequently from all Adminiſtration of Publick Affairs, is as open and unexpreſſible as the Inſtruments and Cauſes of ſuch a change are ſecret; but ſo far as I have had any intelligence of this grand Affair, which I predict to be no good Omen to our poor Country, I am free, and I hold my ſelf in duty bound to communicate to your Lordſhip; who perhaps will not much wonder at ſuch a change, when I tell you that the Emiſſaries of this Court, but more eſpecially the women kind, whom I need not Name, have inceſſantly as they have been taught their Leſſons,

been

been buzzing the King in the Ears with ſuch Calumnies and Accuſation, as here follow according as they are inſerted here.

They were to lay hold on all opportunities, to render the ſaid Noble Lord obnoxious to the King, but yet to be very tender in their firſt attack, and therefore frequently to ſay; That truly his Preſident was a perſon of incomparable Parts and Abilities in matters of State, and that to do him Juſtice, he had done his Prince as important ſervice as any of his Subjects; That though he had in former times fallen in with the republican intereſt, which was then predominant in the Nation; yet he had ſince ſhewed ſo much Zeal for the Monarchy, as might juſtly obliterate all former miſcarriages; provided ſtill he proved conſtant in his Devoir, and gave no ſuſpition of his being inclinable to re-aſſume the principles, which he ſeemed once ſo entirely to have forſaken; and when they had again and again made way by ſuch inſinuations as theſe for more deſperate Attacks; They urged his Majeſty might call to mind the time and occaſion when, as well as of whom the Earl had once ſaid, that when a man is wanting to himſelf, he deſerves that others ſhould be ſo to him alſo; and he might conſider how falſe and dange-

dangerous a Maxime that was, when it referr'd to a Prince or ones Country, to whom one is never allowed to be wanting; That the Earl had been as good as his word, was already ſufficiently manifeſt, when he had diſcovered in Parliament the ſecret motives that had engaged the King to grant Liberty of Conſcience before the late War, as well as his Alliance with *France*, and inſinuated the deſigns his Majeſty had to retrench the liberty of Parliaments, which was indeed no more then to reduce that Aſſembly within the bounds of their Duty; that his conduct ever ſince in promoting the Teſt, *&c.* gave no ſmall Umbrage that he meant more then a bare excluſion of his Royal Highneſs from publick Offices; That they could not be poſitive that a change of Government was deſigned thereby, and a new eſſay for the monſtrous Metamorphoſis of the Monarchy into a Republick once more; but that ſurely, it looked that way; For if the thing were conſidered aright, the King, 'twas true, was an Eſtabliſhed Prince, and now long in poſſeſſion, and in whoſe perſon there could be no plauſible pretence to induce the people to abandon that form of Government; and for the Regal power it ſelf, the time was yet too ſhort ſince a Company of Tyrants had plunged the State into Troubles, for to propoſe an entire abolition

tion of King's a ſecond time, ſeeing thoſe very perſons who went under the notion of Republicans, did not ſo much yet aim for the moſt part at the change of the form of the Monarchical Government, as at the diminution of the Authority; and hence it might be reaſonably inferred, that the Earl well foreſeeing he could not proceed directly to that which he aimed at, began cunningly to take a round which he judged would conduct him with more ſafety to the ſame end: And that ſeeing no poſſibility of diſpoſſeſſing the King, he had formed a deſign to diſinherit the perſon that ought to ſucceed him, being aſſured that the beſt expedient to deſtroy the regal Dignity, was to diſturb the order of Succeſſion; And that his Majeſty muſt needs foreſee the dangers ariſing from the Counſells of ſo pernicious a Man, whoſe authority in Court, Parliament and City was equally formidable as his Pollicy.

I will not take upon me to determine what great ſervices his Majeſty has loſt by the diſcarding of this great Stateſman, he may want it in time, and be better perſwaded then ever of the Character himſelf has given once of him upon his reſolution of a difficult Caſe, *viz.* That he had a Chancellor who knew more Law than all his Judges, and more Divinity than all his Biſhops;

Biſhops; if theſe particulars be not new to your Lordſhip, I deſire to know it, that I may be more cautious for the future in my Intelligence, wherein I always aim at pleaſing your Lordſhip,

Paris, Aug.
29th, 1681.

Who am

Your humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LXVII.

Of the Duke of York's *being in France Twice, and Cloſetted by the* French *King. His Rencounter with the* French *Ambaſſadour* Barillon. *His Wives ill ſucceſs in* France. *Her* Petition *to the* French *King. Return without Relief, and her fatal End.*

My Lord,

HAD I been able to have given your Lordſhip ſome remarkable paſſages relating to the Duke, and Mr. *Coleman*'s Hiſtory, in the time the great Affair of the Popiſh Plot was in Vogue and Agitation, I do not doubt but I ſhould have perform'd a grateful part to you; yet I find ſomething ſo ſingular and diverting therein, that I cannot but flatter my ſelf, it will ſtill, in ſome meaſure, prove agreeable. Mr. *Coleman* had, for a long time, manag'd the Intrigues between the *French* and *Engliſh* Courts, and that your Lordſhip well knows, for his Letters that were ſeiz'd and publiſht make it evident; and he was one of the chief Inſtruments to draw his Maſter, the Duke of *York*, into ſo cloſe a Correſpondence with them as he was ingag'd in, of which your Lordſhip has heard before; and from the Year 1676, to near the time he

was Arraign'd and Condemn'd for the Popiſh Plot; I am free to acquaint you, my Lord, That all his Letters paſt through my hands, being firſt directed to a *French* Gentleman, who took care to tranſmit them to me, with Orders to ſend them to Father St. *Germain*, who manag'd all Affairs between him and Father *La Chaiſe*, but I ſaw the Contents of few or none of them, till lately I have found them among other things of that kind in the Minutes of our *French* Secretary, and which is the Reaſon your Lordſhip has not receiv'd this Account ſooner, at which, I am ſure, you cannot but ſtand aſtoniſhed, as I was my ſelf, when I acquaint you, that I find it entred here, that the Duke of *York* was, during this famous Correſpondence, two ſeveral times in *France*, and Cloſetted to boot, by his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty (which, by the way, unfolds the Myſtery of the Propoſals I have formerly mentioned, about Trapanning the Princes into *France*) but it was both times by Night, and the Works of Darkneſs, between One and Two of the Clock in the Morning, truſty perſons being ready poſted to Introduce him: And one time a Councellor of the Parliament of *Paris* to whom, Some of *Coleman*'s Letters were directed, happening accidentally to let fall an Expreſſion, intimating, That the Duke of *York* was come thither in Perſon, tho' it was Voic'd up and down among the Courtiers it was *Coleman*;

he

he receiv'd a very ſevere Check for his unſeaſonable Inadvertence; and, as a farther puniſhment, he had no more any Secrets communicated to him: for, the Letters from thenceforward were diſtributed by another way. The firſt time the Duke was Cloſetted, was a little before the ſecond *Dutch* War, to concert Meaſures, how he ſhould be enabled to induce his Brother to give his Conſent to it to promote the *French* Deſigns thereby; as was likewiſe our Famous Admiral Sir *Edward Spragg*, for the ſame purpoſe, not very long after the Duke. The ſecond time was a little before the Splendid and Extraordinary *French* Embaſſy was ſent into *England*, and wherein Meaſures were Concerted how to induce our King to give his Conſent to have the Princeſs *Mary* Married into *France*; and, in caſe that would not do, how to Steal her, and ſend her away when they went off; but this Intrigue coming to be privately diſcover'd to the King, by one of the Duke's great Confidents, he had the Cunning to diſſemble the matter, and took no manner of notice of it to the Duke his Brother, but gave ſecret Orders that a ſtrict Eye and a good Guard ſhould be kept over the Princeſs, and would not permit the Duke to have her abroad upon any Invitations, or other pretence whatſoever, till the Embaſſadors were quite gone; ſaying, *It would adminiſter Jealouſie to His People, if She ſhould be permitted to ſtir abroad*

much, while the French *Sparks continued in* England. And to prevent the like Plots upon her for the future, and to pleaſe His People, who were now upon the fret, and, as they would have it here out of Diſpleaſure againſt ſuch an Indirect and Raſh Procedure, which, had it taken effect, as he ſaid, would have daſhed him and his Government in an Inſtant upon an inevitable Rock, he Married Her, as your Lordſhip well remembers, to the Prince of *Orange*, to the great Regret and Vexation of the *French* Court, and of the *Duke* too, who, from thenceforward hath not cared how almoſt he expoſed the King his Brother, by engaging of Him in continual Troubles for his ſake, nor how cloſely he United with the *French* Faction, who afterward wreakt their Revenge for ſome time upon the Duke himſelf, but chiefly upon the King, by their Intrigues, in bringing the following Popiſh Plot upon the Stage: Both the times the Duke was on this ſide, the King knew not of, or at leaſt they deſign'd He ſhould believe ſo, but thought he was retir'd for Indiſpoſion, yet both times he brought Remittances for conſiderable Sums of Money; yet the *French* were highly diſpleaſed at him for his failure in the aforeſaid Match, and the ſubſequent Plot upon his Daughter; ſo far, as that they Suſpended his Penſions, as they likewiſe did *Coleman*'s, which made them both incline to Revolt to the *Spaniſh* Faction, and moved the

the Duke to ſome ſeeming willingneſs to go over, and Command the *Engliſh* Forces in *Flanders*, in the War then likely to be declared from *England* againſt *France*; for which they were cruelly revenged upon Mr. *Coleman*, by contriving his Ruin and Death; and againſt the Duke of *York* too, by the diſcovery of the Popiſh Plot, in which they were highly Inſtrumental, and by imploying the Dutcheſs of *Portſmouth*, and ſome other of their Creatures in our Court, which were bigotted to their Intereſts, to promote the Bill of *Excluſion*, that ſo that Prince might be brought under a neceſsity, as they thought, to return to, and abſolutely to rely upon them; for when, in thoſe Troubleſom Times, the Duke was forced to retire to *Bruxells*, the *French* King was heard to ſay, *That had he follow'd his Counſel, and been conſtant to him, he ſhould not have needed to have retir'd to* Bruxells, *or to any other place but* France: But however, I find all was accommodated again afterward, and the Duke got cloſer in with them than ever, when the Whig-party, as they call'd it, was quaſh'd, and things were ripe for another Plot, called; *The Pr.——one.* But however, before that Breach we have ſpoken of with the Duke and *Coleman*, they were reſolv'd firſt to get ſome Service out of them; for, finding, after the Allyance with *Holland*, that our King was ſomewhat inclin'd to comply with His Parliaments and Peoples Inſtances,

well as those made to Him by the Confederate Ministers in Declaring a War in conjunction with them against *France*, as appear'd by His Speech to the Parliament; But more by their Voting a Fleet of Ninety Capital Men of War, and an Army of Nine and twenty thousand Land-soldiers for that purpose: of all which it does appear, *Coleman* sent over hither a speedy Account; They then presently Renewed their Pensions to him, and to the Duke for some time, with a Solemn Promise of a considerable Sum by way of Gratuity besides, if they could so far prevail, as to sow such Dissentions between the King and Parliament, as might hinder those Preparations by being seconded by an Actual Declaration of War, which they did effectually; for they had, by their Creatures, inspired into the heads of the most Stirring and Active Members of the House, that the Pretence of War against *France*, was only a Court-trick to get Money, and a Standing Army to Enslave the Nation; and therefore it were not their best way to trust the King with Money for that purpose, unless it were at certain moderate Sums, and with such Limitations as might Secure them from any Arbitrary Deligns, and from Intrigues with the *French*; and at the same time it was Infused, with much Artifice, into the King's Head, That if he once ventured on a War against *France* without an Unconditional Vote for sufficient

ſufficient ſupplies, and that in very conſiderable Sums at once; as for example, of ſo much yearly as long as the War laſted; that he was an undone and loſt Man, and would, by that falſe ſtep, be infallibly unhinged; by which Artifices a Declaration of War againſt *France* was ſo long protracted, till the *Hollanders* deſpairing of any good from *England*, were neceſſitated to clap up a Separate Peace (which the *French*, with all diligence, propoſed to them) whilſt the King and Parliament in *England* were diſputing the Caſe about Funds for the War. My Lord, I have been neceſſitated to recapitulate ſome things here, which I remember I have Written a Larger Account of to your Lordſhip, and that becauſe I could not well otherwiſe have brought in the ſucceeding part of Mr. *Coleman*'s Hiſtory, who, to ſay nothing of the Duke, having effected the foremention'd Diviſions, Jealouſies and Diſputes, claim'd his Promiſed Reward of Monſieur *Barillon*, the *French* Ambaſſador at *London*, having yet received but one Payment of it; but the ſlie *Monſieur* finding his Buſineſs was ſo far done, that he was able to go on with the reſt himſelf without their aſſiſtance, put him off at firſt with Fair Words, but *Coleman* ſtill Renewing his Inſtances, *Barillon* began to ſlight his Applications, and at laſt told him, in Down-right

Terms, he had no Orders to Pay him any more Money; That he had Receiv'd enough for the Buſineſs he had done; ſince there were other Inſtruments which he had there, who had done more, and been much more Serviceable in it than himſelf; and, in a word, That his Maſter, the *French* King, had no further occaſion for the Service of ſuch a Sawcy, Impertinent, and Inconſiderable Fellow as he was: *Coleman* was Netled to the Quick at this Unexpected Treatment, which he conceived he had not deſerved at their hands; and therefore he reply'd again as warmly, ſaying, *That for his part he had neglected much greater Rewards then what he demanded of him, and which was his Juſt Due, which he might have had from the Confederate Party; and that now ſince he found he was ſo ſlighted, he ſhould take care to let them ſee they ſhould find the miſs of his Services, by what he would, and was reſolv'd to do for the other ſide, and that he queſtion'd not but to bring the Duke his Maſter to be quickly of his Mind:* *Barillon* thereupon anſwer'd, *That his Maſter would be ſure to find them ſuch Imployment in a ſhort time, that they ſhould have no leaſure to think of ſerving the Confederates, or hunting the* French *in* Flanders, *having already ſuch a pack of Hounds in a readineſs, as would quickly ſnap him, and hunt his Maſter too off his Legs, if he did but offer to depart*

depart ſo much from his own Intereſt as to quit theirs.

After this mutual Huff, *Coleman* going to take his Leave of Monſieur *Barillon*, the *Frenchman* retaining ſtill a ſpice of *French* Civility, came to attend him to the Gate, where, ſeeing *Coleman*'s Coach ſtanding right before it; 'Sir, ſaid he, 'briskly to him, What is the meaning 'of this, that your Coach ſtands right 'before my Door, that is no place for a 'perſon of your mean ſtation and qua-'lity.

'That's ſtrange, *Monſieur*, Anſwer'd '*Coleman*, I ſhould be of meaner quality 'now, then I uſed to be; there, you know 'well enough, it uſed to ſtand; But pray 'where would you have it to ſtand then, 'continu'd he? 'Two or three doors off, 'cry'd *Barillon*: 'So indeed, ſaid *Coleman*, 'I uſed to place it, when I went to a Baw-'dy-houſe, but I did not take yours to be 'ſuch till now, and ſo adiew. It was but a few days after this rencounter, my Lord, that *Coleman* was ſeized for the Popiſh Plot, at the news of which, the Diſcourſe was at the *French* Secretaries, that *Coleman* would certainly pay dear for having adventured to diſpleaſe the King their Maſter; for that they had perſwaded the Conceited Fool to keep his Papers all by him, which they flatter'd him, were Rare Compoſitions, and

Specimens

Specimens of incomparable Wit and Parts, in which they ſaid were things, not only enough to hang him out of the way, but ſo to hamper the King and Duke too, and involve them in ſuch Troubles, that they would be glad to quit all their thoughts of leaning towards the Confederates, and ſo return again to their intereſts at laſt, as moſt expedient for them; and that they had imployed ſuch Tools as would not fail to Diſcover all their Intrigues, and be in ſpight of their Teeth, forc'd to acts of Repentance and ſorrow for what they had done: And in fine, when *Coleman* was Condemn'd, and the Duke would have interpos'd for a Pardon for him, Monſieur *Barillon* oppos'd it Tooth and Nail, and ſaid, *He ought to be Sacrificed upon that occaſion, and that if he were not, the King his Maſter would find means to have a worſe Diſcovery made, than all that had yet been made to appear out of his Papers or otherwiſe*: After *Coleman* was Hang'd, his Wife reduc'd to a forlorn ſtate, retir'd into *France*, and preſented a Petition to the *French* King to this effect.

That whereas her late Husband, beſides his many other good and timous ſervices done to his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, had upon his inſtances by his Miniſter at London, *hired an Houſe in* Deans-yard *in* Weſtminſter, *of a conſiderable Rent, ſome time before that Seſſion of Parliament wherein the matter of a War againſt the Kingdom of* France *was to be debated and agitated,*

for

for the better convenience of Treating ſome Members of Parliament, and ſome other Gentlemen that had influence over them; That he had expended conſiderable Sums of Mony that way, as he had done in like manner among other uſeful inſtruments he had in the Country as well as the City for promoting his Majeſties Service in England, *for which he had declined much greater Rewards from the* Spaniſh, Imperial, *and* Dutch *Miniſters, and other Agents, than he expected or deſired from him, whom he ſerved more by inclination than Intereſt; and that he had had the good Fortune happily to effect the great task impoſed on him by his moſt Chriſtian Majeſties Commands, in dividing the King of* England *and his Parliament, and breaking the neck of the intended War againſt* France; *that yet for all that, when his work was accompliſh'd,* Monſieur Barillon *had refuſed to pay him his expences, and never had given him one quarter of the Sum he was to have had for that Affair, and much leſs, the Expences he had been at; And that now at laſt he had loſt his dear Life for ſerving his Majeſty, by which ſad diſaſter, ſhe and her Family being ruin'd, and reduc'd to miſery and great want; ſhe therefore humbly beſought his Majeſty, if he would be pleas'd to do nothing elſe for her, that he would order her the payment of her Husband's Arrears,* &c.

To which Petition, my Lord, this Court Reply'd, That Mr. *Coleman*, her Husband, had had more Mony from them than he deſerv'd; That he had been a falſe, inconſtant Raſcal,

Raſcal, and had brought himſelf to that ſhameful end by his own Folly and Knavery, having had the impudence to threaten his Majeſties Embaſſador, to turn Cat in Pan, *&c.* That his Majeſty had nothing to ſay to her, and would not give her one Farthing; which ſurly Anſwer ſo thunder-ſtruck the Poor Woman, that ſhe return'd over into *England* ſo enrag'd, and in ſuch a dreadful Fit of Deſpair, that ſhe miſerably cut her own Throat, at her Lodging in *London*; which relation and Coppy, of the Petition I had delivered me by an Engliſh Prieſt, who was *Coleman's* Wife's Confeſſor, and which after I had Tranſcrib'd it, I delivered to the *Engliſh* E--- to be ſent to King *Charles* the IId. that he might ſee how his Brother's Creatures ſerved him; but how he repreſented it is beyond my knowledge to tell. I have been tedious and am affraid troubleſome to your Lordſhip by a long Epiſtle, but the Curioſities whereof the various parts of it are Compoſed, will I hope be as powerful a lenitiue againſt any *Diſpleaſure* I may have incurred from your Lordſhip, as they have been incitatives for me to write it, who am, My Lord,

Paris, Apr. 7. 1683. *N. St.*

Your moſt humble, and moſt obedient Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LXVIII.

Of the Marqueſs de Louvois's *being in* England *ſeveral times in King* Charles *the* II. *Reign, and about what Buſineſs.*

My Lord,

IN my laſt to your Lordſhip, I have given ſome intimations concerning the Dukes being in *France*, and Cloſetted by the *French* King, and of Mr. *Coleman's* Negotiations, and imbroylments with this Court, together with his Wifes Calamitous life, and Tragical death, which I believe were wholly new to you; And I cannot think but that of the Marqueſs de *Louvois*, our great Miniſter of State here, his being again and again in *England* and Cloſetted there with the King and Duke, muſt be equally ſtrange and ſurprizing to you; but tho it be a ſecret, I verily believe, to all other perſons on your ſide, except the two foremention'd perſons; yet it is not ſo entirely ſuch here, eſpecially in our Office: that he has been wanting ſometimes, and hardly any of his Family knew what was become of him, is moſt certain, and upon ſuch occaſions, it was ſometimes given out, he was indiſpos'd in the Country; ſometimes that he was ſent into *Flanders*, *Alſatia*, &c. whether he afterwards went actually with ſo much expedition, tho he rode in a Litter, that his Journeys into *England* were never

per-

perceiv'd: I find two ſeveral occaſions wherein he was Cloſetted.

1. About a year before the breaking out of the ſecond *Dutch* War, when he was ſent particularly to help the King and his Brother to concert the Preparations for, and manner of Carrying on that War.

2. To concert meaſures how to ſtave off the effects of the *Popiſh Plot*, by remitting of Mony to diſſolve Parliaments, and by other methods, when they ſaw they were carrying things farther then the *French* Intereſt required to have them driven, but upon condition the two Brothers ſhould not depart from their Intereſts for the future; To complot meaſures how to enſnare the Proteſtant Party, and eſpecially the high Patriots in a Plot that ſhould quite extinguiſh the Popiſh one, and give the Duke of *York* opportunity to cut off all thoſe who ſtood in the way between him and the Crown, and between the Crown and abſolute Power; All which Cloſettings have been very ſhort as well as private, and performed with incredible diligence, and of which 'tis all I am able to inform your Lordſhip, and with which I conclude, remaining,

My Lord,

Paris, May 16. 1683. *N. St.* Your Lordſhips moſt humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LXIX.

Of that called the Presbyterian Plot.

My Lord,

I Was not a little transported with Joy to find your Lordship's Name was not inserted in the List I have seen of Persons taken up for the Plot; I have had the vanity to flatter my self, that some things that I have Writ lately to your Honour concerning Monsieur *Louvois*'s Negotiations in *England*, may inspire you with a more than ordinary Caution upon such an occasion, wherein when it shall lye with your Lordship's conveniency to let me have a Line from you, I do not desire so much to be satisfied, as what Rules I am to observe for my future conduct, in respect to my Correspondence, since I have some reason to suspect your Honour may be uneasy under the present Circumstance of things, and I have heard, unsettled too; I have little to say at present how far the Ministers of this Court are engaged in starting of this Conspiracy, what I have formerly Written concerning their Management of the several Factions in *England*, may give your Lordship some view of their Designs; but what they generally say of it, is, That it was now seasonable to set up a Protestant one, as a fresh game; and since by their strong concurrence, when they saw

ſaw it time, they had enabl'd the King to ſtifle the other Popiſh one, and thereby diverted the current of his Arms ready to fall upon them; it was neceſſary, having new Deſigns of Conqueſts in view (and what can it be, but *Luxemburg* block't up by them laſt year) to raiſe a new Diſturbance in his Dominions, which could not be better effected now, than by ſtarting a Plot of another Stamp, which would not only incapacitate the King to interpoſe, and put a ſtop to their career, but would alſo be an effectual means to make the holding of Parliaments impracticable at leaſt for a time, and make him quite faſt in a manner to their King's Purſe-ſtrings, towards which they had by the other Plot made ſuch conſiderable Advances. I do preſume your Lordſhip retains the ſame *Engliſh* Spirit you were ever Maſter of, and are as conſtant, notwithſtanding all the viciſſitudes of State, which have happen'd in your time, which is the Reaſon I retain ſtill my uſual freedom, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, July 21. 1683. N. S. Your humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LXX.

Of the Model of Ships ſent by King Charles II. *to the* French *King*, &c.

My Lord,

I Do preſume it is a matter no longer doubted of, that our King is fallen in more than ever with the intereſts of this Court; the many Models and Draughts of Ships which he has ſent over hither, and ſome whereof I have ſeen at the Marqueſs de *Louvois*, is a convincing proof of it, tho they are ſomewhat deſirous to give it another Term here, and ſay; His *Britannick* Majeſty is well known to be the only Prince in the World that underſtands Shipping the beſt, and that only out of a little Vanity, to ſhew his great Abilities in that way, he ſent diverſe Models, not only into *France*, but elſe where alſo; tho the real Cauſe, as I have heard it whiſper'd, was his want of Jealouſy, and withal to Coaks as much Mony out of them as he could; and in order to enhance the ſame, he ſent alſo Artiſts over as well as Models, for which, by the Account *I* have ſeen, tho it ſeems to be ſomewhat imperfect, as to the particulars, he hath already receiv'd, at times, above 600000 Pounds Sterling, which is all the particulars *I* could ever attain to in relation to

this matter, that I know is the moſt ungrateful to your Lordſhip to underſtand perhaps, of any thing that has at any time dropp'd from my Pen, and therefore *I* am glad 'tis thus contracted, as *I* am always of an opportunity to acknowledg how much *I* am,

Paris, June 4. 1684. N.S.

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble Servant.

LETTER LXXI.

The Conduct of the Court of France *towards the Duke of* York, *during his abode in* Flanders *and* Scotland, &c.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip will hardly believe the Treachery of the Miniſters of this Court, who ſince *I* have known them, would ſtick at no manner of Villany to gain their ends; and our unhappy Princes have from time to time given them but too much opportunity to work their deſigns through their own ſides; and this *I* have already made to appear by ſeveral inſtances to your Lordſhip, and ſhall further now by obſerving that notwithſtanding his Royal Highneſſes Compliance with them

them in the buſineſs of Marrying his Daughter, ſo far as he could, and upon diverſe other occaſions, as I have formerly hinted: Yet at that time when he was forc'd to retire to *Bruxels*, they were very angry with him, and almoſt all the reſt of the *Engliſh* Papiſts, becauſe ſo many of them had ſeem'd Zealous to ſerve the *Spaniſh* intereſt, under the Duke in *Flanders*; nay, and the *French* King himſelf was heard to ſay, *That had he followed his Counſel, and had been conſtant to him, he ſhould not have needed to retire to* Bruxels, *or to any other place, but* France, as I think I mention'd before to your Lordſhip. Tho they ſeem'd afterward to mollify ſomewhat towards him; yet they ſet their Emiſſaries on work in *England* and *Scotland*, to deal with ſome perſons, about whom they had formerly got ſome Light in Monſieur *Ruvigni's* time, to get the Duke ſent into *Scotland* to make a Party there, while they privately engag'd the *Dutcheſs of Portſmouth* and the Excluſioners in *England*, to do their utmoſt, both in Court and Parliament, to get him Excluded from the Succeſſion, in hopes, and with this accurſed view, that *England* having proceeded ſo far, as to put him by the Succeſſion; *Scotland* would declare for him, and ſo the two Kingdoms be rent in ſunder, and afflicted with a tedious War, wherein they had reſolv'd to aſſiſt the

latter; and yet, my Lord, 'tis ſtrange to think it, yet ſo it is that they were not true to him even there; for they got it privately propos'd to a certain Noble Family in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, deriv'd from Blood Royal, that if they would put in a claim to the *Scotch* Crown, and throw off the Title of the two Brothers, upon pretenſions to be ſuggeſted to them, and that *Scotland* would ſet up again for a Kingdom under a King of its own, and renew their Antient League with *France*, they ſhould be Aſſiſted effectually; and ſhould beſides have the Lands of the Dutchy of *Chatelleraut*, and the Honours and Lands of *Aubony*, &c. with many other additions reſtor'd to them, and over and above all this, a large Annual Penſion, and all the old Priviledges granted formerly to the *Scotch* Nation renewed and conſiderably augmented; but tho, my Lord, that Noble Family refus'd to hearken to theſe their Treacherous Invitations, yet there cannot a greater inſtance ſcarce be given of their Villanous Deſigns than this, which I could not but communicate to your Lordſhip upon this occaſion, who am,

My Lord,
Your Humble Servant.

Paris Sept. 6.
1684. N.S.

LETTER

LETTER LXXII.

Of King Charles II's. *Reſolution a little before his* Death, *to alter his method of Government.*

My Lord,

I Am very well ſatisfied your Lordſhip muſt know in a very great meaſure, the preſent Reſolutions of the King, in reſpect to his Future Government, when you know ſo well by whoſe Agency he was at firſt Undeceiv'd, and by whoſe Council and Aſſiſtance he intends to proceed; but the Miniſters here have too many Agents ſtill about him to remain long Ignorant of the Deſign, and are not a little Allarm'd to underſtand, his Majeſty hath reſolv'd to reſtore all Charters, to call a Parliament, and thereby to get a moderate Liberty ſettled on Diſſenters, and to have the Boundaries of Prerogative, Parliamentary Priviledges, and Popular Liberty ſo clearly ſettled and explain'd, that there may ariſe no more Diſputes about them between King and People for the Future; and that it ſhall be made Treaſon after that, even in Parliament, once to move any thing prejudicial to the

King's declar'd and explain'd Prerogatives, or to the Parliament and Peoples declar'd Priviledges and Liberties; and that all Officers Military and Civil, ſhall be equally Sworn to maintain the one as well as the other; that the Duke, for the preſent, ſhall be Sollicited to go for *Scotland*, attended with ſuch Perſons as would take care to obſerve his Steps narrowly; and that in his Abſence the Princeſs *Mary* be Declar'd Heir Preſumptive to the Crown, and the Prince invited to Reſide with her in *England* till the King's Death, and the Duke totally Excluded, and confin'd to live at *Modena* or *Rome*, and not in this Kingdom, or elſewhere; but to have all his Revenues allow'd him; and that if he prove Refractory, and refuſe to Retire any where elſe, but into *France*, that then he ſhall not only be depriv'd of his Revenue, but be altogether confin'd in ſome Caſtle in *England* under a good Guard, *&c.* I do not queſtion, my Lord, but this matter is ſufficiently aggravated by the *French* Emiſſaries, and perhaps there may be ſomething more in it, than I am able to fathom; however it was my Duty to Tranſmit the ſame as I find it repreſented, tho your Lordſhip may know much more truly the Fact, than,

Paris Jan. 1. 1685. N.S.

My Lord,
Your humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER LXXIII.

Of King Charles II's. *Death.*

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip may expect I ſhould acquaint you how much ſurpriz'd I was at the News of the King's Death; but the manner it was receiv'd here quite drown'd my Aſtoniſhment in that Kind, and ſo it would any true *Engliſh* Man, to ſee this Court have the News of his Majeſties *D*eath, or at leaſt pretend to have it, and give Orders for Mourning, before our *Engliſh* Envoy had any ſuch Notice given; ſo that when he came, according to Cuſtom, to give them intimation of it, all the Court was ſeen in Mourning before Night, and all perſons of Note in this City the next day; I'll leave your Lordſhip to Reflect upon the Tranſactions and Circumſtances of it, which tho comprehended in a few words, may afford a larger Field for Thought, than any thing my mind can at preſent ſuggeſt unto me, or my Intelligence reach unto, but it puts me in mind of ſomewhat (I think) I have writ in my laſt to your Lordſhip, and ſo I ſuppoſe it may do your Honour, if it has not already, but I am,

My Lord,

Paris Feb. 22. 1685. N.S.

Your humble Servant

LETTER.

LETTER I.

Of King James *(when Duke of* York*) his pervertion to the* Popiſh Religion, *how and when it was done*, &c.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip cannot imagine how over-joy'd both Court and Country are here, upon the News of the King's going Publickly to the *Roman Catholick Chappel*, upon His Aſſumption of the Crown; and many and various Diſcourſes it has occaſion'd concerning His firſt Imbracing the *Roman Faith*; an Account whereof may not perhaps be unpleaſing to your Lordſhip: And therefore I ſhall endeavour to gratifie your Honour therein, to the utmoſt of my power; ſome have been of opinion, that the Zeal, Example, and Exhortations of the Queen His Mother, to whom He ſeemed always to pay the greateſt Deference, had wrought this Change early in him; and that the long Converſation he had had with thoſe of the *Roman Communion* in *France*, *Flanders* and other places, had fortify'd him in the ſame Sentiments he had before imbib'd, and which at laſt appear'd in an open Profeſſion; but, however this has a very great appearance of truth, its utterly deny'd here, and averred with great Elogi-

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mm's upon him, that it happened to him as it did to one of the Ancients, as Recorded in Holy Writ, that he ſhould find in the Gall of a Monſter, that was about to devour him, that, wherewith to cure him of his Blindneſs. For, that it was in Reading of the Hiſtory of the Reformation, written by a Proteſtant Author, that he came to ſee the Error wherein his Birth had engag'd him; that when he was oblig'd, when in Exile, to leave the Kingdom of *France*, and to retire to *Bruxels*, and having leaſure enough to Read, he lighted there upon the Hiſtory of the *Reformation*, written by Dr. *Heylin*, which he Read with much Attention; and notwithſtanding the many ſtrained pretences (ſay they) which the *Proteſtants* made uſe of to colour the Schiſm of their Country, he clearly ſaw that their Separation, ſo plainly contrary to the Maxim of Unity, which is the Foundation of the Church, was nothing elſe but a meer effect of Humane Paſſions; that it was the Diſſolute Life, and Incontinency of King *Henry the Eighth*, the Ambition of the Duke of *Sommerſet*, the Pollicy of Queen *Elizabeth*, the Avarice of thoſe that were greedy to ſeize upon the Revenues of the Church, had been the Principal Cauſes of that Change, wherein the Spirit of God had no concern; that upon reflecting with himſelf. That God of old made uſe of *Prophets* of a moſt Holy Life, to be the Guides

Guides of his People, and to Intimate his will unto them, in reſpect to Religion; that upon the change of the Divine Diſpenſation, the Apoſtles Inſpired with Heavenly Vertue, and more like to Diſimbodyed Angels, than Carnal Men, Preached the Goſpel; and that upon Diſorders, and Irregularities, both under the one, and the other *Teſtament*, They were not carnal perſons, Vindictive Souls, Ambitious Spirits, that had Preached Reformation; but Men full of *Moſes*'s Spirit, or of *Chriſt*'s, the only Channels worthy to receive the Waters which run from his Living Sources; ſo as that there might be no room left to render them ſuſpected of Corruption or Falſity: he from thenceforward became a *Roman Catholick* in his heart; That he had acquainted the King his Brother with it ſoon after the Reſtoration, who highly Applauded him; but engaged him to put that reſtraint upon himſelf, as to keep it ſecret: But, that ſome years after, having, by his Conduct, given occaſion to others to obſerve his Steps more warily, and finding he was not Cordial to the *Proteſtant* Religion and Intereſt; they ſay here, the Arch-biſhop of *Canterbury* and two of his Brethren Remonſtrated the ſame to him; that he heard them with much Patience, and did not decline to Confer with them; but that their Conferences and Arguments, were ſo far from

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Staggering and Seducing of him, that they Confirmed him the more in the Faith: And they ſay farther, That tho' it was given out in *England*, That the late Dutcheſs of *York*'s Complaiſance to the Duke her Husband had wrought her Converſion to the *Romiſh* Church, in the Communion of which ſhe dy'd: yet it was notoriouſly falſe; for that ſhe was brought over by a very remarkable event, next to a Miracle, by Reading the ſame Book that had Converted the Duke: But I ſhall trouble your Lordſhip no more with a Matter, which, I am ſure, you cannot think of without trouble of Mind, and ſo I remain,

Paris, *March* 2. 1685. *N. S.*

My Lord,

Your Honours to ſerve and Command.

LETTER II.

Of the Duke *of* Monmouth's *being in* Holland; *and King* James's Deſign *to ſeize him there* Miſcarryed.

My Lord,

THE Misfortunes of the Duke of *Monmouth* in the King his Father's time are beter known to your Lordſhip, then

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I can pretend to inform you; and that when he was forced to quit *England* for his own ſafety, and that it came to be known he was retir'd into *Holland*, the Duke and *French* Emiſſaries never left Importuning the King to ſend to the *States* and Prince of *Orange*, to drive him from thence; alleadging continually, that there were very great Honours done him by the *States*, and eſpecially by the Prince of *Orange*, who had given his Troops Orders to Salute him at their Reviews, when-ever he came to ſee them, deſigning thereby to make that Republick, and eſpecially the Prince of *Orange*, more and more obnoxious to the King: ſo that he gave at laſt Orders to His Embaſſador, Mr. *Chudley*, at the *Hague*, to forbid the *Engliſh* Troops in that Service to ſhew the Duke any Reſpects; Having gain'd this Point, and that they might embroyl the King and Prince of *Orange* the more, *Chudley* was Inſtructed, to make the Officers of the ſaid Regiments acquainted with the afore-mention'd Orders, without firſt giving the Prince notice thereof, under whoſe Command they were, which they knew well enough the Prince could not but Reſent, as he did accordingly, Threatning *Chudley* for Interfereing with his Authority without his leave; and this, upon the Embaſſador's Complaint to the King his Maſter, and which

which was ſufficiently Improved and Aggravated by the Duke and *French* Agents about him, incenſed him ſo againſt the Prince; that he diſpatch'd Letters to *Chudley*, forbidding him to ſee the Prince: and thus Matters ſtood when the late King died; but the Brother ſucceeding, he ſet all his Engines on work, how he might get the Duke of *Monmouth* into his Clutches Dead or Alive: But the *French* Agents, my Lord, did not think that now their Intereſt, which, in the late Reign, they would have given any Money to have effected; and therefore by their Correſpondents in *Holland*, they got the Duke ſecretly Advertiſed of the Danger, who thereupon withdrew to *Bruxels*; I know, my Lord, they gave it out that the Prince of *Orange*, by his Favourite *Monſieur Bentink*, got the Duke made acquainted therewith, and that he gave him Money to go to *Bruxels* (it was both Honourably and Charitably done of him, if it was ſo, to a diſtreſſed Gentlemen) with an intent to make the King, his Father-in-law, more irreconcileable to him, now he was King, then when *Duke of York*; tho' he was to diſſemble it for a time; and, upon his Acceſſion to the Throne, to teſtifie to the Prince, the ſincere deſire he had to live with him, rather as a Father, then an Ally and Neighbouring King. I have had ſufficient Experience, my Lord, of your great Honour, Integrity,

tegrity, and good Affection, which makes me thus bold in a matter ſo nice at this time, and ſo concludes,

Paris, March 17. 1685. *N. St.*

My Lord,

Your humble Servant.

LETTER III.

Of King James's *being Crowned by the Archbiſhop of* Canterbury.

My Lord,

IT has been a matter of much diſcourſe and reflection here, that our King ſhould be Crowned by the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and not by one of the *Roman Communion*; it was expected, that ſince he had begun ſo briskly and openly to declare Himſelf for *Rome*, that he would not have ſtuck at being Inaugurated by a *Roman* Biſhop; I find by the return made hither upon this Subject, that his inclinations were violent enough for the latter, but that the Reaſon of his Non-compliance was, that having at his aſſumption of the Crown, declar'd to the Council, and by them, to his People, That he would maintain the Church and State of *England*, as by Law Eſtabliſh'd; and that the Ceremony of

of his Coronation was ſuch as the Laws of the Land did preſcribe; he thought it was a little two Early to begin, and that by ſo publick an Act, which, to be ſure, would be interpreted not only as the moſt manifeſt Violation of the National Conſtitution, but the *Preludium* to a deſpotick Power, which no man knew the end of. I ſhall not trouble your Lordſhip with a Repetition of the Arguments uſed here by the Gentlemen of the *Roman* Church, *pro* and *con*, upon the Lawfulneſs and Unlawfulneſs of ſuch a Compliance by a Catholick King to the Church of *England*, which tho the Eſtabliſh'd one, they look upon to be falſe to the Truth, as being matters which I ſuppoſe your Lordſhip cares not for, and therefore having nothing further wherewith to entertain you that is worth Tranſmitting, *I* conclude, ſubſcribing my ſelf,

My Lord,

Paris May 6. 1685. N. S. Your Honours moſt humble Servant.

LETTER

LETTER IV.

Of the Duke *of* Monmouth *and the Earl of* Argyle's *Invaſions and Overthrows, and of the* Prince *of* Orange's *offering to ſerve againſt the former, but his offer was Malitiouſly Interpreted, and ſo Rejected.*

My Lord,

THE Reaſon of my long ſilence to your Lordſhip, I hope, will not be interpreted by you, as any forgetfulneſs, much leſs neglect of your Honours Commands and Expectation; *I* am too ſenſible of the many Obligations that have been heap'd upon me from time to time, to be guilty of ſo Notorious a Crime; but the want of ſomewhat that was Solid and Grateful to your Lordſhip, has been one genuine Cauſe that obſtructed my Correſpondence, to which I may add what your ſelf knows very well, the private Orders given in *England* to open all Letters, whether Domeſtick or Foreign; and ſince I had for ſo long a time continu'd to write to your Lordſhip, and that undiſcover'd, I was not willing for want of a little prudent

dent caution, and ſuſpenſion in ſuch a juncture, either to expoſe your Lordſhip to any hazard, or thereby for ever to exclude my ſelf from any farther Correſpondence with you, whom I ſo much Love and Honour; But now, my Lord, underſtanding that the Storm is over in *England*, by the defeat and death of the Duke, as we have had ſome days ago an Account from *Scotland* of the like misfortune to have attended the Earl of *Argyle*. I have adventured to Salute you with theſe Lines, and to tell my thoughts freely upon the matter. I muſt confeſs, I never had any great opinion of either of the Expeditions, becauſe concerted by Men who had very different ends in what they did; the Duke and ſome others for Monarchy, but the greateſt part Republicans; and therefore I do not wonder the whole hath miſcarried, eſpecially when I can aſſure your Lordſhip, both the one and the other were (tho' very privately) Abetted by *French* Agents, to undertake ſuch an Expedition: ſuch a procedure may well be wondred at, I confeſs, ſince there was apparently ſo little advantage like to ariſe to the *French* Court therefrom; but beſides their loving to fiſh always in Troubled Waters, they have ſomewhat in them that is very like the Devil, who loves to do Miſchief, tho' with no benefit to himſelf. But whatever the World may think hereof, thoſe who are fled, that eſcaped

from either Kingdom, after the Defeat, are as kindly received here, as thoſe who formerly fled from the *Popiſh Conſpiracy*; but yet they are daily ſifted and examin'd by the Spies that continually haunt them. I would gladly know, might I have the honour, your Lordſhip's Sentiments of both Deſcents, and the Miſcarriage of them: to be plain with you, I own I have very different apprehenſions of them, now they are over, than I had at firſt; and the rather, becauſe the Prince of *Orange* ſo much reſented it; tho' moſt Maliciouſly interpreted by the King, and his Popiſh Council, whetted on by *Gallican* Agents. When the Prince had the firſt News of the Duke's Landing in *England*, he acquainted Mr. *Skelton* the King's Ambaſſador, that the Duke of *Monmouth*, though he were a Perſon but of indifferent Parts, yet he had a Warlike *Genius*, and had more Experience and Skill in the Art of War, then moſt of them employ'd againſt him; That for his part, if the King his Father-in-Law pleaſed, he would aſſiſt him, not onely upon that occaſion, with his Troops, but with his Perſon alſo; and to that end was ſending Mr. *Bentinck* over to *England*, to know the King's pleaſure. But *Skelton* malevolent enough of himſelf, and farther influenc'd with Malice againſt the Prince by *French* Incendiaries, took care to inform the King before *Bentinck* came, that ſuch Aſſiſtance as was propoſed

propoſed by the Prince, was very dangerous, and much to the ſame purpoſe; ſo that upon Mr. *Bentinck*'s Motion, the King anſwered, That their Common Intereſt required, that the Prince ſhould ſtay in *Holland*; and gave ſuch further expreſsions of his Mind upon that occaſion, that plainly diſcover'd, that ſuch a Zeal in the Prince was eſteem'd unſeaſonable, and not free from Suſpition. With which, and a grateful acknowledgment of all your Lordſhip's Favours to me, and my Family, upon all occaſions, I ſhall now conclude, and for ever remain,

Paris, Auguſt 24. 1685. *N. S.*

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's
Moſt humble Servant.

LETTER V.

Of the Methods propoſed, and Arguments uſed to King James, *for carrying on the Diſpenſing power.*

My Lord,

THAT the King intends to Aſſume a Power into His Hands of Diſpenſing with *Penal Laws* againſt *Recuſants*, I believe your Lordſhip may be ſenſible of by this time, ſince it's manifeſt, that not-

withſtanding the Parliaments Remonſtrance to the contrary, he retains the Popiſh Officers ſtill in his Service; and that it is ſo far from being a Secret here, that I can oblige your Lordſhip with ſome of thoſe Methods and Arguments ſuggeſted to him, by the Agency of this Court, to carry it onward, wherein it's more then whiſper'd here, he has fully acquieſced. It was thought adviſable, conſidering the violent Humour of the Nation againſt the admiſsion of ſuch Perſons, either into Military or Civil Offices, and that all the Cry was, That the King had not kept his Word, but did thereby Infringe their Laws and Liberties, to bring the matter into *Weſtminſter-Hall*, to have the Diſpenſing Power there Argued upon a particular Caſe; but, to make ſure of the Judges before-hand, to Favour ſuch a Procedure; the King was told, could he gain ſuch a Point, his buſineſs were done for ever; tho', at the ſame time, it was his undoubted Prerogative to diſpenſe with Laws, being an Eſſential right, and an uſage in *England* as ancient as the Kingdom; that it was in being at all times, and in all Reigns, that there were ſeveral Acts, wherein there had been Proviſion made for ſuch a Reſervation to the King; that the Term of *Nonobſtante*, which was ſo common, was always a Diſpenſing with ſome Law; that the Commutation of Puniſhments are no leſs a proof there-

thereof; And how much more were Remiſsions, Pardons, the Reſtoration of Criminals to their Goods again, *&c?* That there were Preſidents to be met with, wherein the King's of *England* had ſuſpended the Effects of Laws, not only by Diſpenſations, regarding particular and ſingle perſons, but by a general Suſpenſion, in regard to the whole Kingdom: That his Brother had done ſo in caſes of the Statute relating to Carriages, whereof there was not the leaſt complaint in Parliament: neither was it ſo much as once ſaid, that he had thereby exceeded the Juſt bounds of His Authority: That the ſame had been done by *Henry the Seventh*, his Great Anceſtor, and *Solomon* of *England*, in reſpect to the Act that prohibited the Continuation of Sheriffs in their Office above One Year, which, in Council, was declared null, and impracticable; becauſe that thereby the King was diveſted of of his Regal Power in diſpoſing his Subjects. I do not queſtion, my Lord, but you will ſoon hear of the effects of ſuch Council, but whether to your ſatisfaction therein, I have as great reaſon to doubt, as I have a deſire to promote it, and ever ſhall, to the beſt of my power, who am

Paris, Nov. 13. 1685. *N. S.* *My Lord, your very humble ſervant.*

LETTER VI.

Of the Unjuſt Complaints of the French Clergy, *againſt the Reformed in* France.

My Lord,

THE Ruin of the *Reformed* in this Kingdom is as much precipitated, as that of a *Proteſtant Church* is deſigned ſomewhere elſe, and which I believe your Lordſhip, by this time, is pretty well perſwaded of; and to this end the Popiſh Clergy have accoſted the King with a ſevere Remonſtrance againſt them, the ſum whereof, for want of more entertaining News, I ſhall write to your Lordſhip at this time: They began with the hardieſt Lie they could have invented, ſaying, That there was nothing included in their Complaint, but what was moſt neceſſary, and could be moſt clearly juſtified and made good. Whereas it is moſt evident, that every title of it tends to Deſtroy and Perſecute, and is grounded upon the moſt manifeſt Falſities in the World: then they begin to charge the *Reformed* with Calumniating, and falſly Accuſing the *Catholicks*, that they did not believe the Truths of the Faith, as they expreſs it; whereas the *Proteſtant* Divines here, have ſo far been complyant, as to teſtifie from time to time, that the

Roman

Roman Church retained ſtill thoſe Truths that were Eſſential to Chriſtianity, In that ſhe makes Profeſſion to Believe in one God in three; the Incarnation of the Son of God; the Redemption of Sinners by the Price of his Blood; and divers other Articles contained in the Antient Creeds; then they proceeded, ſaying, That the deſign of the *Paſtoral Advertiſement* in 1681, was to oblige the Reformed to acknowledge, that their Separation was not grounded but upon Suppoſitions and Jealouſies, and they hugged themſelves, that the many Converſions which had been wrought ſince that time, have been almoſt all procured by this conſideration; which they call an Invincible Argument, that as there could never have been any Juſt Cauſe of Separation, all thoſe alleadged by the pretended Reformed, could never have any ſollidity; That the Proteſtant Miniſters did their utmoſt to hinder the People to profit by that ſame Advertiſement, either by deterring of them from Reading of the ſame, or elſe by giving falſe Explications thereof, as they were wont to do of the Holy Scriptures, and Works of the Fathers: Adding farther, That the Exerciſe of the Reformed Religion had been permitted by the King's Predeceſſors, proviſionally only, and by reaſons which have no longer ſubſiſtance: that tho' the Clergy had very good Reaſons to urge it ſo as to require a Revocation of the

Edicts which contained this permiſſion, yet that it was not their preſent deſign to inſiſt upon that Point: that it was now the only favour they pray'd for, for to repreſs the Calumnies of the *Reformed* againſt the *Roman* Church, which were not, and which could not be allowed by any Edict, being an unhappy Liberty, which the Miniſters themſelves might be aſhamed of: that ſuch a ſuppoſition and Calumny were Crimes Condemn'd by all Laws both Humane and Divine, and that the Reformed durſt not maintain, that thoſe exceſſes ought to be permitted, nor to make their Complaints, if the King ſhould forbid them to commit them.

Then they went to ſpeak of the Method they had thought on, to make the King acquainted with the truth of their Complaints: they drew up in Two Collumnes the Doctrine of the Church of *Rome*, and that, which they ſaid, the Reformed imputed to them, to the end it might be eaſier for the King to compare them; and ſaid moſt Malignantly, That they had avoided the Relating of many things which exceeded all the bounds of Modeſty, and which St. *Paul* himſelf would not have as much as named among the Faithful, to the end they might create a Suſpicion, by theſe pretended Calumnies, of ſomewhat that was yet blacker then what had appear'd in the paſſages which they had recited. They proteſted, that

that they would never have made any complaint of the Reformed, had the matters in queſtion referred only to the Perſons of the Biſhops; and that on the contrary, they would have been content to be deprived of their Power, in order to teſtifie, by their Patience, and voluntary Forgetfulneſs of thoſe Outrages that were done them, that ſingular Charity which they retained for them; but that they could not neglect the Honour of the Church, attack'd by the Calumny of the Miniſters, nor the Converſion and Salvation of a great number of her Children, which they retained in the Error of their falſe ſuppoſitions; wherefore they concluded after all, that the King would be pleaſed to repreſs a Malignity that was ſo contrary to the Principles of Chriſtianity, as alſo to the Rules of Natural Juſtice; and that conſequently,

1. That he would renew the Prohibitions already made to the Reformed of uſing Injurious and Opprobrious Terms, in ſpeaking of the Articles and Myſteries of the *Roman Faith.*

2. That he ſhould forbid them to attribute to the *Catholick Faith* any other Doctrine then that of its profeſſion of Faith, nor any of thoſe Errors which they had had till then, the raſhneſs to impute unto her.

You

You need not doubt, my Lord, of the Succeſs of this Remonſtrance, and of a Declaration in time, Anſwering all the Points hereof to the full. There is room enough for Reflecting upon the Courts Conduct herein, but I ſhall forbear that part, leaving it entirely to your Lordſhip's known Wiſdom and Judgment, and crave leave both now and always, to profeſs how much I am, and deſire to approve my ſelf to be,

Paris, Nov. 27. 1685. *N.S.*

My Lord,
Your Honours to Serve and Obey.

LETTER VII.

Of the Declaration put out by the French *King, upon the Remonſtrance of the* Popiſh Clergy, *againſt the Reformed, the Month of* Auguſt, 1685.

My Lord,

I Have in my laſt to your Lordſhip, of *July* the 27th, N. S. taken notice of the Popiſh Clergy's Unjuſt complaint to the *French* King, againſt the *Reformed* here; and now I ſhall, with preſuming on your good

good Leave, give you ſome hints upon the *Declaration* that was Publiſh'd here ſome days ago in Conformity to the ſaid *Remonſtrance*; to which the King condeſcended ſo far, that the Motives thereof are almoſt drawn word for word from the Requeſt it ſelf; All ſorts of Perſons are thereby ſtrictly forbid to Preach and Write againſt the Faith, or the Doctrine of the *Romiſh Church*, and to lay to the Catholicks Charge thoſe Opinions which they allow not of, and not ſo much as to ſpeak directly, nor indirectly any manner of way whatſoever concerning the *Catholick Religion*; enjoyning the *Reformed Miniſters* to Teach only in their Sermons the Tenets of their own Religion, and Rules of Morality, without the intermixture of any other matter whatever: But alas, the Miſchief did not ſtop here, for all perſons are Prohibited to Print, Sell, or Lend any other Books concerning Religion, beſides ſuch as contain the Profeſſion of their Faith, their Prayers, and ordinary Rules of their Diſcipline: It doth moreover Order the Suppreſſion of all ſuch Books as have been Written againſt the *Catholick Religion*, by thoſe of the pretended *Reformed Religion*, and ſtrictly forbids either to Print or Lend any ſuch Books for the future; thoſe Miniſters and others of the *Reformed*, that make default herein, are liable to great Fines, perpetual Baniſhment, and the Confiſcation of all their Goods,

Goods, the Places where the Miniſters ſhould Preach againſt the Articles of the Edict, to loſe the Right they had, to exerciſe the ſame function for ever; and the Printers and Bookſellers in caſe of their Offending in any kind, to forfeit Five Hundred Livres, and for ever to loſe the Freedom of keeping open Shops: And thus, My Lord, you ſee this Court has ſhut up the Miniſters Mouths in all matters of Controverſy, and leave that Liberty only to the *Roman Catholick* Divines, thereby preparing of them for an aſſur'd Victory, and hereby, beſides, That the Miniſters, are reduced to be ſilent, and not to concern themſelves, as to the greateſt part of the Articles of the Confeſſion of their Faith, which conſiſts in the Rejection of the Tenets of the *Church of Rome*, as falſe and contrary to the Doctrine of the Goſpel; that they might effectually preclude them from the Right they had to complain of this unjuſt dealing, the King, by way of addition, in the Preface to his Edict, to the Reaſons which the Clergy's Petition had ſuggeſted to Him, has inſerted, That it was enough for the Miniſters of a Religion, tolerated in the Kingdom, to teach their own Tenets, without being carried into Diſputes againſt the Publick and Prevailing Religion, which alſo is therein call'd the True One: But one ſhould think this Edict were as needleſs as many others, ſeeing there are not now paſt twenty

twenty *Reformed Churches* in the Kingdom, where they have Liberty to Preach; but there ſeems to be an hidden Deſign couch'd under it, and it is juſtly to be fear'd, That after they have ſuppreſs'd the Reformation in all the Countries under the *French* Dominions, they have hereby made Proviſion, That the Doctrine of Truth ſhall not be maintained in private Families, and never have that means to riſe up again out of its Ruins, by the Reading of ſuch Books as Teach it; wherefore they have taken care to prepare Reaſons for the Depriving the Reformed of Books of this Nature, and to Eſtabliſh a kind of an Inquiſition over their works, which ſhall not concede to any one the Liberty either to read them, or keep them by him. But of this, I ſhall be able to give a fuller Account in my Next, and ſhall therefore defer it, and ſo I remain,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhips moſt
Humble Servant

Paris Sep. 2.
1685. *N. S.*

LETTER

LETTER VIII.

Of the Suppreſſion of Proteſtant Books *in* France.

My Lord,

I Have in the cloſe of my laſt Letter to your Lordſhip, hinted ſomewhat concerning the Suppreſſion of Proteſtant Books in this Kingdom; I have ſince ſeen a Catalogue which contained almoſt Five Hundred Authors, whoſe Works are all Condemn'd. Some men in the World love to put the Cheat upon themſelves, ſo they here, to heighten the Number of ſuch Books, have repeated ſome of them more than once; but they have been alſo as careful to forget ſeveral others, as the Works of the Learned *Grotius*, *Voſſius*, and many more, whoſe Writings are oppoſite to the *Roman* Church; but your Lordſhip, I believe, is no ſtranger to the ſly Practiſe of that Church on this head, and how the Members of it have, of a long time, endeavour'd to perſwade the World, That theſe Illuſtrious Perſons had re-entred into their Party; That they were willing to retain an Honourable Remembrance of their Names, tho it be certain in the main, that the greateſt part of what

what they had Writ, was as remote from Truth, as the Authors were from the Communion of their Church; That *Grotius* himſelf, who hath carried his Complaiſance towards the *Roman* Church, much farther than any other, yet he never rang'd himſelf of her ſide by an open Profeſſion, and did ſtill retain diverſe ſentiments that were very contrary to the Court of *Rome* alſo; but that this Default might be Remedied by a Pious Fraud; and to the end, they may one day perſwade the ſimple and ignorant that all the Hereſies that have ſprung up in theſe laſt Ages of the World, are as ſo many Tenets of the *Calviniſts*; they have not only joyn'd the *Lutheran* and *Arminian* Books to them, but alſo thoſe of the *Socinians*, and the Works of *Spinoſa*; And they have not, my Lord, contented themſelves to Condemn the Books which have been Written by the Reformed againſt the Church of *Rome*, but they have alſo hemm'd in Books that refer only to pure Morality, and which Aſtoniſhes many here: the Theſes alſo of *Joſua de le Place*, without excepting thoſe written by him againſt the *Socinians*, and is a Book that does not attack the Church of *Rome* in any one of her Tenets, and is only deſign'd for to prove the Divinity of our Saviour, againſt the Sophiſtical Arguments of that Sect; the Tranſlation alſo of the Hiſtory of the Council of *Trent*, which *Amelot de la Houſ-*

ſay,

ſay, a *Roman* Catholick Author has put forth, is comprehended in the Catalogue of Heretical Books; I cannot be poſitive to affirm to your Lordſhip who had the chief hand in forming this Catalogue; it's generally attributed to the Arch-biſhop of this City; but they tell us further, That becauſe he would have appear'd to have acted too much like a Patriarch in obliging the reſt of the Biſhops to take this Rule of their Conduct from him, he has by the intreagues of the Procurator General, brought his matters ſo to bear, that the Parliament here have committed it to his care to make an Eſtimate of thoſe Books which ought to be ſuppreſs'd; the Order was no ſooner Publiſhed, but the King's Officers, and the Civil Magiſtrates who were commanded to have the ſame put in execution, have accordingly made a ſearch for thoſe Books in all Bookſellers Shops, and alſo in the Elders and Miniſters Houſes.

The Arch-biſhop, my Lord, has ſome Years ago made uſe of a very Efficacious Method for to hinder the Publication of any Book that deſerv'd to come into the World; I believe, your Lordſhip, may have ſeen the Hiſtorical and Chronological Tables of *John Rou*, who was a Perſon of great Learning, and whoſe Merit had acquir'd unto him the Favour and Protection of ſeveral Perſons of the Higheſt Quality in the Kingdom of *France*; and which Tables he preſented to the

the Duke of *Monthauzier*; there is but a very ſlight mention in the Book, and that but by the by, of any of the Principles of the Church of *Rome*, and thoſe alſo which ſhe Eſteems, and looks not upon to be of the higheſt conſideration and importance; but theſe ſlight touches, and the Honour which the Author had done to ſome Miniſters of the Reformed to Name them, among the illuſtrious Doctors of their Age, raiſed the Indignation of all the Bigots in the Church againſt him, and ſo they got his Copies and Tables, which to his great coſt and Expence he had got Engraven, Seiz'd; and the poor Gentleman could not find an Ear open to the offers he made to Correct and Amend thoſe places which might give Offence; and all the Solicitations and Friends he could make, could never prevail ſo far as to get Juſtice done him; there are ſome Perſons now who would Redeem them for their own proper uſe; but tho it be nine or ten years ago ſince the forementioned Tranſaction, they have not yet forgot the Noiſe it then made, and they will by no means part with them; who knows but the Crafty Jeſuits have a mind to reſerve them, to procure Honour to themſelves by them, when they think the ingenious Perſon that contrived them may be no more Remember'd; for it muſt without Vanity be own'd, that they are compos'd with ſo much Art, Judgment,

Order and ſolid Learning, that there is no man but may glory to be eſteem'd the Author of them.

This Search, my Lord, after the ſuppreſſed Books, has been already made in ſeveral places, and not only ſome other Biſhops, who have no manner of dependance upon the Archbiſhop of this City; but other Parliaments, we hear, have receiv'd the Catalogue, and put the Order of the Parliament here in Execution; There are ſeveral of the Proteſtant Churches, which have very conſiderable Libraries; but ſome of them already are Rifled under this pretence by the *Romaniſts*; and 'tis not to be ſo much doubted as 'tis to be fear'd, the reſt will ſoon run the ſame hard Fate; This Search has alſo reach'd the Houſes of ſeveral particular Perſons; whom they have been ſo ſevere upon, that they have not ſo much as left them their Bibles, becauſe the Catalogue has put the Verſions of the Bible made by Hereticks, among the Number of Prohibited Books; but ſurely theſe Tranſlations, how faulty ſoever they may ſuppoſe them to be, cannot juſtly be put among the Number of thoſe Books, wherein the Church of *Rome* was accus'd of holding Opinions which are not receiv'd by her, nor conſequently be comprehended among thoſe whom the Edict ordered the Suppreſſion of: As for the Miniſters they are us'd very variouſly, the greateſt part have not

not yet been moleſted upon the Account of their Books, for perhaps, as they have already contriv'd to be rid of them by Baniſhing them out of the Kingdom; they look upon it as a kind of Suppreſſion of the Condemn'd Books, to ſuffer them to carry them away along with them; but I am aſſur'd they have given others of them much moleſtation in diverſe parts of the Kingdom; ſome of whoſe Books they have Seiz'd, ſome Confiſcated, and caus'd others to be Burnt; nay, they have been ſo outragious againſt many of them, as to diſpoſeſs them of all their Manuſcripts and Sermons; I am ſorry, I am forc'd to give your Lordſhip this Relation of the Miſery of the diſtreſſed Proteſtants of this Kingdom, becauſe I know it will Trouble you, and inſpire you with a Noble, tho grievous Sympathiſing of their condition; but I am afraid the worſt is yet to come; I pray God to divert it to whom I commend you and yours, and am

My Lord,
Your Honours moſt Humble and Obedient Servant.

Paris, Sep. 12. 1685. *N. S.*

LETTER IX.

Of the Popes Nuncio *opposing any New Form of* Doctrine *design'd to be introduc'd by the General Assembly at* Paris, *for the easier seduction of the Reformed to comply with the* Popish Church, *and be United to her.*

My Lord,

THIS Court is so taken up with Forming Methods and Projects to bring the Reformed to a Complyance and Conformity to the *Roman Church*, that I do not find they mind any Forrein Affair at present: I have seen several *Formula's* conceiv'd in very easie Terms, for the promoting of the Re-union, as 'tis call'd by them; but, among others, this that follows, I thought very remarkable, and whereby your Lordship may see the Latitude they assume to themselves, for the promoting their Interest, tho', no doubt, it is but a Bait to catch some of those harmless Gudgeons; the words were these, 'I own and confess 'the Catholick Apostolick and *Roman* 'Church, as it was in the time of the A- 'postles; and I Renounce and Abjure all 'those Errors which have crept in ever 'since. The Bishop of *Meux* hath, to make

make the way ſtill ſmoother, in his *Preface* to the *Second Edition* of his *Expoſtulation of the Catholick Doctrine*, gone ſo far, as to ſay, 'We do not ſerve Images, God for-'bid we ſhould do ſo. And indeed, there is ſome likelihood that the Clergy would have ſtreatch'd their Complaiſance yet farther this way, had not an unexpected accident hindred it; for, the *Pope*'s *Nuncio* being inform'd, that the General Aſſembly, or rather the Arch-biſhop of this City, under the Covert of that Name, and by the Advice of the *Jeſuits*, were about to draw up, and form a Profeſſion of Faith, more adapted for the ſatisfaction of ſuch of the Reformed, as became New Converts, than that of the *Roman Church*, he beſtirr'd himſelf, and interpoſed, in his Maſter, the *Pope*'s Name, and made ſeveral Remonſtrances to the King, upon the Authority which the *French* Clergy were about to aſſume to themſelves, of ſetting up other Forms of Doctrine, then that which the whole Catholick Apoſtolick Church had received ſince the Council of *Trent*: You cannot imagine, my Lord, how much this little unexpected Traverſe from the old Dad diſheartn'd the Court; whether it were that it came from a *Pope*, whom the King did not care for, or that they were afraid it might retard the Work of Converſion, is not certain; but the reſult was (as I have been firſt informed, and ſince ſeen

ſomewhat verify'd by the conſequence) that the *Pope* ſhould be comply'd with, and the rather becauſe they were well ſatisfy'd with his inflexible temper; and that as they believ'd, it would be dangerous to ſow Diviſion between the Clergy of *France* and the *Pope*, at a time when they were labouring to reduce all *Frenchmen* to the Unity of the Church; it would be more adviſable for them, to keep to the uſual Profeſſion of Faith: And now, my Lord, the Clergy give out, every where, that they will not qualify any Points, but vaunt, that in reducing the Reformed, they will not put out any one Taper that Adorns the Altars. I ſhall not detain your Lordſhip at preſent with any farther account of a matter, that ſuits not with your Guſto, tho' I know you have goodneſs enough to accept my endeavours, though never ſo contemptible in themſelves, and to pardon my weakneſs, who am,

Paris, *Sept.* 17. *My Lord*,

1685. *Your Lordſhips very*

obedient ſervant.

LETTER

LETTER X.

Of Popiſh Guardians *impoſed upon* Proteſtant Children, *and of* Proteſtant Phyſitians, Chyrurgeons, *and* Apothecaries *being forbidden to follow their* Practiſe, *with the pretended Reaſons alleadged for ſuch a* Prohibition.

My Lord,

WHatever underhand-brewing may be in *England*, in matters of Religion; they be bare-fac'd enough here in carrying on their Deſigns for the Ruine of the Reformed Churches, tho' ſtill they retain ſome ſpecious pretences for what they do; 'tis but lately that we have had a Declaration publiſh'd, forbidding any to take upon them the Office of Guardians to Children, whoſe Parents have died in the Proteſtant Religion, excepting ſuch as are *Roman Catholicks*; and tho' that part of the Edict that concedes this Privilege to the Reformed, is couch'd in the moſt clear and expreſs terms that could be conceiv'd; yet the Declaration takes no manner of notice of the ſaid Article; nay, and the Expreſſions wherein it has been conceiv'd, are ſuch as would beſpeak, that ſuch an uſage has

been without foundation; but indeed, this is a method that the *French* Council has for ſome time uſed, when they have been mindful to put out any Order in prejudice to any of the Privileges granted in the Edict that are expreſt ſo clearly, as that no Cavils raiſed by them can render them dark and and abſurd: And, as they found it too difficult a Task to find Reaſons forcible enough to elude ſuch formal Conceſſions, they made a ſhew of being ignorant of them, and they were willing to put forth ſuch Orders that might only ſeem to Regulate ſuch New and Extraordinary Caſes. But yet that they might have ſome colourable pretences for what they did herein, they charged the *Guardians* of the *Reformed Religion* with Two Crimes; *Firſt*, That they abus'd that Power which they had in that quality over thoſe in Pupillage to them, and hindred them to become *Catholicks*; Then that they Imbezell'd the Eſtates of ſuch Minors, when they became Converts againſt their Will, which was a great Obſtacle to their Preferment when they came of Age: Theſe two things were ſpoken of, as if there had been nothing in the World more certain and truer, and of which they had had abundant experience; but they are of the number of ſuch inſtances, that are alike eaſie to be raiſed, as impoſſible by any proofs to maintain; and, any ones Reaſon, my Lord, will give him, eſpecially as

to

to the laſt Article, that it muſt be notoriouſly falſe; For can any one believe, that ſuch *Guardians*, who would adventure in a malicious way, to imbezill the Eſtate of their Pupils, could go unpuniſh'd, in a Countrey, where their Religion and Power was ſo much in the Wain; and ſurely he muſt be next to a Madman that would thus adventure to play with the Zeal of the Parliaments of this Kingdom, animated by the Recommendation of the Clergy, who are forward enough to make their Court into them.

And if, my Lord, the *Proteſtant Guardians* are thus Injuriouſly uſed, the *Phyſicians* of the ſame Perſwaſion have fared much worſe, as being deprived by another Declaration, of their Means of Living upon the moſt ridiculous pretences in the World; they alleadging, that ſince thoſe of the *Reformed Religion* were already deprived of all Judicial Affairs, and the freedom to exerciſe the Functions of Counſellors at Law, it were to be feared the greateſt part of their young Men might fall to the Study of *Phyſick*; That, that would conſiderably augment the number of *Proteſtant Phyſicians*, and that thoſe of the *Roman Catholicks* muſt by that means as much decreaſe, and that hereafter that would become very prejudicial to the Salvation of ſick *Catholicks*, in that the *Reformed* would take no care to put their *Patients* in mind of Receiving

ceiving the Sacraments of the Church, when they found them reduc'd to ſuch a condition, as did require them: I know not, my Lord, but that there may be a Snake in the Graſs here, and that the Crafty *Jeſuits* amuſe the World with ſuch Illuſions, and would buoy People up in a belief, that ſince they have taken ſuch great Precautions for futurity, it's the leaſt of their thoughts to come to an entire abolition of the *Reformed's* Privileges, and put Conſtraints upon their Conſciences in Religious matters; I wiſh it may prove ſo, the event will diſcover it.

When this hardſhip was put upon the *Phyſitians*, the *Chyrurgeons* and *Apothecaries* every where began to look about them, and were terribly afraid their turns would be next: they had juſt reaſon for it, my Lord, for not many days were elaps'd ſince the Publication of the former, but comes out an Order of Council, Prohibiting all *Chyrurgeons* and *Apothecaries* who made Profeſſion of the *Reformed Religion*, to exerciſe their Art, neither by themſelves, nor by the Interpoſure of other Perſons, directly or indirectly, nor conſign their Privileges to another, nor by any other way or means whatſoever: inſinuating, that the exerciſe of ſuch Trades gave them eaſie admiſſion into Mens Houſes, and by that means hindred the Converſion of other Religionaries. And thus, my Lord, the Art of *Phyſick*, and

and thoſe others dependant thereon, are looked upon as the laſt Reſourſes of the *Reformed Religion* here; and this has Adminiſtred occaſion to ſome Perſons to ſhew their Wit, and to divert themſelves with ſuch Frigid Pleaſantries, ſaying, 'That 'the *Reformed Religion* was at the Point of 'Death: that the *Chyrurgeons* and *Apothe-'caries* could do no more for her; and 'that there was no doubt to be made, but 'that ſhe ſhould in time be abandoned by the '*Phyſitians* alſo. Your Lordſhip having expreſt no Diſſatisfaction with my keeping up my Correſpondence with you in things of this kind, for want of more agreeable Matter for your Information, has emboldened me to accoſt you again in this manner, and gives me farther Incouragement to be aſſiduous to get the moſt certain Intelligence I can, as well as freſh opportunities to profeſs how much I am deſirous,

Paris, Sept. 20. 1685. *My Lord,*

to ſerve you whilſt.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

Of Jealouſies raiſed in the Reformed *in* France, *that there was a deſign form'd to Maſſacre them.*

My Lord,

THings are now carried on in this Kingdom, with ſo high an hand againſt the *Reformed Churches*, as to threaten an entire Deſtruction of them in a very ſhort time; It has been a matter debated and heſitated upon for a long time, whether they ſhould ſend their *Dragoons* amongſt them, and make uſe of that Expedient, ſince their Lives and *Popiſh* Arguments fail'd them to reduce them to Re-unite with the *Romiſh Church*; They were not without their fears, leaſt when they ſhould ſend Armed Men in that manner, and to that end, to thoſe parts of the Country wherein the *Proteſtants* were in greateſt Numbers, and to many Rich and Populous Cities, where almoſt all the Inhabitants are of that Perſwaſion, they might meet with ſome unexpected Reſiſtance, which might conſtrain them to Abandon their Enterpriſe, or come to a down right Maſſacre. There is indeed a Rumor whiſper'd up and down That,

That there has been ſecret Applications made to the King, That conſidering the Reſiſtance which the *Reformed* might make to his Orders, and the little ſucceſs which his Deſigns had already, and was like to meet with, in preventing their Retreat out of the Kingdom; That it were a much ſurer, more expeditious and better way for him to be rid of them by a Maſſacre; Nay, my Lord, it's confidently ſaid, and I have ſome Moral Aſſurance of it, that the Orders were given, and the Letters drawn already, when a Prince of the Blood coming to hear of ſuch Barbarous Reſolutions, had the Courage to Remonſtrate to the King the Evil, as well as the Diſhonour of it, and goodneſs enough not to leave importuning of him till the Orders were Revok'd, and the Letters ſuppreſt. I cannot be ſo poſitive as I would in giving his Name to your Lordſhip; ſome ſaying it was the Renowned Prince of *Conde*, but others attribute it to his Nephew the Prince of *Conti*, both of them Perſons of great Honour always, and as likely either of them to concern themſelves in that behalf, as any in the Kingdom; but whatever ſtop may have been put to the Jeſuitical Fury hereby; I think they have begun to diſcharge it by their *Dragoons*, almoſt in as Barbarous a manner, who have been already guilty of a Thouſand Violences, and the Almighty

ty alone knows where it will Terminate. I beg your Lordſhip's Pardon, if I am any ways troubleſome by ſuch Relations, and beg leave to ſubſcribe my ſelf,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient Servant.

Paris, Sep. 24, 1685, *N. S.*

LETTER XII.

Of the Violences offered to, and the Stratagems uſed againſt the Reformed *of* Bearn.

My Lord,

THE *Proteſtant Churches* in the Province of *Bearn*, had been ſeveral Years ago under ſome ſham pretences or other, reduced to the Number of Five, and the Parliament from time to time, have endeavour'd to render them of no uſe by the Impriſonment and Silencing of their Miniſters; but now there has been ſuch a prank plaid for Converting ſome of the Inhabitants to the *Popiſh Church*, as I think hardly has ever been Practiſed by any other People in the known World: For the Intendant of the Province having made

made uſe of a Notorious Fellow to carry on the Work, he deludes ſome of the People to go with him to a Tavern, and there by his Artifice found the way to make them Drunk. Next Day when they were come to themſelves, he goes and tells them, That they had promiſed him they would go to Maſs, and that if they pretended to deny it, they would be ſure to be Treated as Apoſtates; That they had beſides ſpoken ill of the Government, and the Miniſters, of Religion; and that the only way for them to eſcape a ſevere Puniſhment, which they had made themſelves lyable to, was to Conform to the Church of *Rome*: There was about Fifty of them that were catched with this ſimple Wile; whereof the Intendant Vaunted ſo much, that he has Writ to Court, that there is ſo General an inclination in the whole Province to become *Catholicks*, That the King has no more than to Teſtify his deſire they ſhould do ſo, for him to ſee the whole Country Embrace the *Roman Communion*; And ſo having obtained ſuch farther Orders as he deſired, he has cauſed an Aſſembly of New Converts to meet together at *Muſlac*, and hath Ordered the Civil Magiſtrates of the Neighbouring Places to cauſe the *Reformed* of their reſpective Pariſhes to come thither, under pretence of hearing a Sermon, which the Biſhop of

Leſcar

Leſcar was to Preach there: Now the Biſhop, my Lord, as is well known, is fitter for a Play-houſe than a Pulpit, and a Sermon of his Preaching was look'd upon by all a thing ſo rare, as to excite the curioſity of the moſt ſtupid in the World to go and hear him; wherefore abundance of Perſons from all parts preſented themſelves at the place appointed; But when they came there, they could hear no other Sermon than the Declaration of the Intendant, to acquaint them, That it was the King's Pleaſure they ſhould all turn *Roman Catholicks*; Thoſe who refuſed to comply to this unexpected Command, were Cudgelled into the Church, had the Doors made faſt upon them, and with the ſame Violence, were forc'd to keep ſilence, fall down upon their Knees, and to receive from the good Biſhop an Abſolution of their Hereſy; and thereupon were told, That if they offered for the future to go and hear their own Miniſter, they ſhould be infallibly Puniſhed for Apoſtates: ſuch and a thouſand the like Violences they Practiſed of late in that Province; as I have a faithful Account thereof, too tedious to trouble your Lordſhip withal; but becauſe your Lordſhip may perhaps have heard a mighty Noiſe of a Deſign to Beſiege *Fontarabie* by the *French*: I ſhall in a very few words unfold that Miſtery to you.

The

The Intendant, my Lord, having found that thoſe, and the like ſham-Tricks above mentioned, did not anſwer his his End, but that the generality of the People ſtill ſtuck Tight to their Principles; found there was a neceſſity to bring in Armed Men to conſtrain them to a Complyance. It was given out here, That this Court was highly diſſatisfied at that of *Spain*; that they durſt appear ſenſible of the Outrages done them on *Flanders* ſide; and ſo for ſatisfaction, talked loud of nothing elſe than Beſieging *Fontaraby*; ſaying at the ſame time, That *France* would do nothing but what was Juſt, and therefore they were not willing to begin a War on that ſide where the Barrier might be broken (which was made by the late Peace) between their Conqueſts, and the United Provinces; and in carrying their Arms towards the other ſide, could give them no manner of Umbrage. In Conformity to this ſeeming Deſign, the Troops Defiled towards *Bearn*, but in ſtead of Advancing to Inveſt *Fontarabie*, they have halted there ever ſince, and committed all the Inſolences that the moſt barbarous of Nations could e're be guilty of. But ſince I have entred upon the Relation of the Miſery of this Famous

mous Province, I ſhall endeavour a little further to treſpaſs upon your Lordſhips Patience, and ſhew what pretences the Clergy have raiſed to Juſtify the Rigorous Proſecution of the *Bernois*, before others in the Kingdom; They have had the Artifice to Aboliſh the Remembrance of the Conſpiracy which their Predeceſſors had formed in this Principality againſt their Lawful Sovereigns, and have had the Audaciouſneſs to perſwade the King, that the *Reformed Religion* was never Eſtabliſhed in that Province, but by the Authority of Queen *Jane*, who would have her own Religion to be Uppermoſt; And that as ſhe had then Baniſhed the *Catholick Religion* out of her Dominions by Arms, in favour of that Doctrine whereon ſhe her ſelf Doted; the King who was the Eldeſt Son of the Church, might very juſtly do the ſame thing for the Exterminating of that Change in Religion there, which had been introduc'd by Violence; and thus you ſee, my Lord, the Popiſh Clergy here leave nothing uneſſay'd for the Advancement of their Deſigns, (I am afraid they are of the ſame Kidney every where elſe) and they have got the knack (when there is occaſion) of making that a Crime in their Enemies, which is but the juſt Puniſhment of their own;

own; for by diſguiſing the Truth of Hiſtory, as they have done herein, they have made that to paſs in Queen *Jane* for an Uſurpation over the Liberties of her Subjects, and the freedom of their Conſciences, which was but a Lawful Revenge ſhe had taken on the Perfidious Clergy of her Dominion, who had formed againſt her, and the Princes her Children ſuch a Conſpiracy as can hardly be paralell'd, before the introduction of the *Ignatian* Order into the World; however, right or wrong, they have gain'd their Point, and under this falſe relation of ſo memorable an Event, they have made it to paſs for a conſtant Truth; That under a Queen of the *Reformed Religion*, that Religion which ſhe Authoriz'd, was introduced by force in *Bearn*, and that conſequently there would be no room left to complain; that a Popiſh King in his Turn, made uſe of Force to repreſs it. This was the ground pretended for beginning to put *Bearn* under Military Execution; as if from what was formerly done for the juſt Puniſhment of a Rebellious People, there were a juſt conſequence to be drawn for an unjuſt Oppreſſion of the moſt Submiſſive and Obedient Subjects: But having already Treſpaſſed by an over tedi-

tedious Letter, I ſhall not farther aggravate it, but remain,

Paris, Sep. 27. 1685. *N. S.*

My Lord,
Your Lordſhips moſt Humble and Devoted Servant.

LETTER XIII.

Of the Rejoycings in Bearn *upon the Imaginary Succeſs they had in Converſions.*

My Lord,

IN my laſt to your Lordſhip, I remember I was ſomewhat tedious in my Narration of the Sufferings of the Poor *Proteſtants* in the Principality of *Bearn.* It were endleſs for me to recite the farther Particulars that have come to my knowledg ſince; and therefore I ſhall wave it, and acquaint your Lordſhip, for want of a better Subject, how much the Clergy have Triumphed in the Succeſs they have imagined, thoſe Violences they have been guilty of towards thoſe

People

People, had to bring them over to their Communion. They have not fail'd to Teſtify as much Joy at it, as if there had been ſome Battle got, or ſome City taken from the Enemy: But what was very Cruel and Terrible, was, That the poor *Reformed* were forc'd to take part in theſe Rejoycings, of which their own Ruin was the Subject. It would be too tedious to recount to your Lordſhip, the many Cruelties exerciſed in this Country, and particularly at *Pau*, as a *Preludium* to this Force; But after the Reduction of the foreſaid place, they made a general Proceſſion, whereunto they dragged the New Converts, and withal Celebrated High Maſs, whereat the Parliament aſſiſted in a Body: And then when that was over, *Te Deum* was ſung, the Guns Fired, and the Citizens who were commanded to ſtand to their Arms, made ſeveral Diſcharges and Vollies of Shot; Then followed Illuminations and Bonfires, and Fireworks were prepared at the Charge of the Publick for the ſame occaſion: But how much ſoever this was a mock-ſhew, yet great care has been taken to tranſmit ſuch Relations to the Court, of all the particulars relating to their Proceedings and Succeſs, as are dreſt with all the Art Imaginable, with a deſign to perſwade them, who are but two

ready to believe it, that all the People every where, have Re-united themſelves to the Church, with all the freedom and good will Imaginable; and becauſe they were reſolv'd to make ſure work of it, they have accompanied the ſame Relations with Certificates, which they cauſed to be ſigned by the ſame means, as they have procured their Converſions, as they are pleaſed to call them; and wherein thoſe who had ſuffered a thouſand outrages and Violences, that cannot be named without deteſtation and horror, were conſtrain'd to declare that the King's Soldiers, who of themſelves are well known to be as profligate wretches as any in the World, had lived and demeaned themſelves among them with all Modeſty, and had kept ſtrictly within the bounds of their Orders, which yet, my Lord, is a baſe Equivocation, for who knows what their Orders were; but what is more pleaſant yet then the reſt is, that beſides the forementioned Narrations and Certificates; they have Tranſmitted hither alſo a Speech made to the Intendant by Monſieur *De V—* a Member of the Parliament of *Pau*, who was one of the chief Inſtruments to induce the Church of that City to come to a compliance, and who taking upon him to ſpeak in the Name of the Reſt,

Reſt, came to give him aſſurances of their entire Submiſſion: But I hear, My Lord, he is like to have but little thanks for his pains, for the Council here are no ways pleaſed that he ſhould attribute the Converſion of that ſame Church, to the King's Puiſſance, and thereby make too clear a Diſcovery of what they have no mind ſhould be known by any means, *viz.* That any of the Soldiery have been imployed in this Expedition, theſe were his words, which I take to be genuine, *That there was need of the ſame Force that had Subjugated both Seas, and alſo made the* Spaniards *humble, to cauſe the* Reformed *to Re-unite to the Church.* Which Words being not to be Explicated any other way, than by Force of Arms; and concerning which, the *Spaniards* willingly acknowledge, That the Power was much more Formidable than the Juſtice of them; the Council have Stomacked it, and the more it ſeems, becauſe the ſame Lawyer has fooliſhly and impertinently Attributed the beſt part of that Conqueſt to the Intendant; Which Procedure did not concur, and fall in right with the Court Maxims, who are wont to attribute to the King alone, all the Glory that Redounds from all Events. I ſhall not Tranſgreſs, my Lord, by any further Enlargment upon this Subject, hoping your kind Interpretation

of what I have here troubled your Honour withal, and that you would be pleased to retain a Favourable Opinion of my Sincerity in all the Parts of my Correſpondence, and give me leave, ſtill to Subſcribe my ſelf, as I really am, and ever will be,

My Lord,

Paris, Sept. 30. 1685. *N. S.*

Your Lordſhip's

To Command.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

Of the Violences offered to the Barons of Mompeton, de Mauzac, de Vichaſe, *and* de la Mothe.

My Lord,

HAVING not yet any better Entertainment for Your Lordſhip, then by purſuing the ſame Subject I have of late dwelt upon, in the Courſe of my Correſpondence; I ſhall once more adventure upon a ſhort Relation of what has lately come within the Verge of my Intelligence, concerning the Barbarous Uſage of the Barons of *Mompeton*, *de Mauzac*, *de Vichaſe*, and *de la Mothe*; and the rather, ſince, If I am not much miſtaken, I have heard your Lordſhip formerly mention ſome of their Names, and particularly, *de Mompeton*, as being of your Acquaintance, when you Travelled in this Kingdom: Theſe Gentlemen were Members of the Church of *Montauban*, where lately the Dragoons are come; but it ſeems, before they began to exerciſe their Fury upon the poor People, it was Contriv'd, by the Prime Com-

Commanders, how they might entrap the fore-mention'd Honour'd Perſons, as being of Great Authority among the reſt of the People, and capable to draw others to follow their Example; but yet obſerv'd to be of as known Integrity, and of whom they were in deſpair to compaſs their Ends, unleſs it were by Surprize; wherefore they had notice given them ſecretly, that in order to prevent the Pillaging of their Houſes, they ought to go and pay their reſpects to the Marqueſs *de Boufflers*, who being a Perſon of Honour himſelf, would not fail to uſe them as ſuch; Whereupon the Baron of *Muzac*, having preſented himſelf firſt, at the Houſe where the Marqueſs had taken up his Lodgings; He was made to wait in the Anti chamber, till ſuch time as the Intendant and Biſhop, (who had notice given him of the Deſign) were come thither; when they came, they went into the Marqueſſes Chamber, by another Door, and Concerted Methods with him, how they might get the Baron to become a *Roman Catholick:* After they had pitch'd upon the Meaſures they were to go upon, the Baron was order'd to come in; and after long Diſcourſe uſed to him, for to induce him to become a Voluntary Convert, the Biſhop began to ſpeak, and ſaid,

ſaid, 'There was no need of ſo much 'ado with that Gentleman; that there 'was no more to be done, then to bring 'him down upon his knees, and he would 'too rights give him Abſolution of his 'Hereſy. Whereupon, a parcel of *Ruffians* there at hand, ſeiz'd upon the Baron, foyl'd him, and brought him down upon his knees: This Inſolent and bold Carriage, the fear of the Danger, the Conſternation it brought him under, together with the Fall, ſo far prevail'd upon his Spirits, that he Swooned away; ſo as that thoſe Miſcreants, who brought him into that dangerous condition, had much ado to recover him, and bring him to himſelf again. There happen'd, it ſeems, to be a Knight of *Malta* in the place; who, being a Man of great Honour; and finding that this way of Converting the World, was a very odd and new way, and little agreeable to *Chriſtianity*, he would have taken him away out of their hands; but, ſo intent were theſe vile Sparks on their Enterpriſe, that they would by no meanes give way to the Interceſſion of the Knight, unleſs he would charge himſelf with being reſponſible for the Baron's Converſion; But whatever the Gentleman did for the keeping of his Word with them, towards bringing of the Baron to a Com-

Compliance, I am credibly inform'd, he could not prevail; but that the Soldiers were thoſe who got their Ends on him; and, that having, by a Terrible Method, *viz.* By forcing him to keep continually awake, without any intermediate Reſt, they brought him at laſt to Dote, and be beſide himſelf, when they Extorted his Signing. This bad ſucceſs did not diſcourage the Convertors, as they were call'd; for the Baron *de Vichaſe* entring a little after to pay the ſame Reſpects to the Marqueſs, they would have uſed the ſame Violence to him; but though they got him down, yet he bravely got up again upon his Legs, and clapt his Back againſt a Wall, and his Hand to his Sword, and that with ſuch a Reſolution to defend himſelf, in caſe he was Aſſaulted, that they choſe rather to give him over, and puſh the matter no further: The Baron *de Mompaton* was the laſt that came; who, though of ſuch advanc'd Age, as being near Seventy four years old, and of ſuch Quality, as being Lord of a very conſiderable Borough, in the Dioceſs of *Montauban*; yet had no more reſpect, nor pity ſhew'd him then the reſt: for they ſet upon him in the ſame manner as they had done the reſt: but happening fortunately to be Booted and Spurred, his Spurs hindred

hindred them from throwing him down, and his firm and ſtout Expreſſions ſtopp'd the Biſhop's Mouth, and he eſcaped, tho' he was taken afterward in his Flight out of the Kingdom, and Condemn'd, according to the Rigorous Proceedings of this Court, to the Galleys: and though his Age and Quality, beſides the Great Sollicitations made at Court, in Favour of him, might render the matter very eaſie to be obtain'd; yet it was with much difficulty that he was got to be exempted from that odious Condemnation, and this was given out as an Extraordinary Mark of the King's Clemency: The Baron *de la Mothe* avoided the Smart, by not appearing at the place for that time; but he was puniſh'd ſoon after, by having his Two Fine Houſes Deſtroy'd: And lately, through a tedious Miſery of a Priſon, they Extorted a Compliance from him. I hope this will find your Lordſhip in Health, and free from ſuch-- in this Tickliſh Time, which ſhall be the daily wiſhes of

My Lord,

Paris, Nov. 13. 1686. *N. S.* *Your Lordſhips moſt humble and moſt devoted Servant whilſt*

LETTER

LETTER XV.

Of the Revocation of the Edict *of* Nantes, *how Monſieur le* Tellier *the Chancellor haſtned it, and his own Death.*

My Lord,

THE Parliament is not yet open'd here: when there was no doubt made of it, but that it was fully deſign'd the Edict of *Nantes* would have been revoked; but moſt People were aſtoniſh'd to ſee the Revocation come out before the ſaid time, and great inquiry made into the ſecret of this unexpected procedure; for though the violences I have, in ſome of my former Letters to your Lordſhip, given an account of were really ſuch, if not worſe than repreſented, yet they were Chriſtened with the Name of making Converts by fair means; and the Court would make the World believe it to be ſo at all points. And to elude the

the poor Reformed with the vain hopes that they ſhould yet enjoy the benefit of the Edict a long time: they had an Order put forth the 15*th* of *September* in favour of them, in reſpect of Marriages, which they had, for a long time, before ſollicited for in vain: But, it ſeems the Chancellor has been the means to haſten it, as I am credibly inform'd: For finding himſelf burdened with years and Infirmities, and fearing leaſt he might be overtaken with Death before the Fatal Blow were given; he did, at laſt, by freſh and repeated Inſtances (alleadging, he could not live to the time the Edict was deſign'd to be Nullified, and that he was not willing to die before he had put the Seal to the Revocation of it) obtain his ends; But, my Lord, it's very obſervable, that he had no ſooner done it, by putting to the Seal, but that he neither would, nor could Seal any other Order whatſoever; but Died here three days ago very uneaſie, tho' he Blaſphemouſly ſaid (when he had done it) the words of Old *Simeon*, *That after he had ſeen the Salvation of the Lord, he would go to his Grave in peace.* I do not queſtion but your Lordſhip had heard before of the Revocation of the Edict, but the Death of the Chancellor, and

and Circumſtance of it, I ſuppoſe you have not, and that is the occaſion of my troubling you with this Letter, which I ſhall conclude, with Suſcribing my ſelf,

Paris, Nov. 2. 1685. *N. S.*

My Lord,

Your very humble Servant.

LETTER XV.

LETTER XIV.

Containing ſome Obſervations upon the French *King's Edict in* Octob. 1685. *for the revocation of the Edict of* Nants, *made in favour of the Reformed in the Reign of* Henry *the Fourth.*

My Lord,

I Have very lately given your Lordſhip an account of the Death of Monſieur *le Tellier*, ſoon after the revocation of the Edict of *Nants*; I am apt to believe your Lordſhip has not ſeen the ſaid Revocation, and therefore, to keep my Hand in ure, and for want of better matter to gratifie your Honour's Expectations, I ſhall deſcant a little upon the Particulars of it: After the Prefatory part of it, it's aſſerted as a conſtant Truth, That the Edict of *Nants* was not given, but with a Proſpect to revoke it; That not only the King himſelf, ſince his acceſſion to the Throne, but even his Father and Grandfather *Henry* IV. had a Deſign to bring the Reformed back to the Communion of the *Roman-Catholick Church*; and that civil and foreign Wars have been the only Cauſe that had retarded the execution of that Deſign; That before the concluſion of the Truce in 1684, Affairs were not brought to a fit diſpoſition to bring it about, and that till now they had been content to ſuppreſs the places of their Worſhip,

and to aboliſh ſome of their Privileges; and that in order to make way for the accompliſhing of this great Work, the King was the more eaſily brought to conclude the ſaid Truce: this being prefaced, the reſt contains twelve Articles, importing in general, That all Edicts made in favour of the Reformed are null; That the Reformed Religion ſhall be no more exerciſed in the Kingdom; That all the Miniſters ſhall be baniſh'd, yet with Promiſes, that if they became Converts in a limited time, *viz.* in fifteen days, they and their Widows after them ſhould be provided for, *&c.* That no Reformed Schools ſhall be kept in the Kingdom; That all Children, for the future, ſhall be brought up in the *Roman-Catholick* Religion; That thoſe might return into the Kingdom in four months who were out of it, elſe to have their Goods confiſcate; That none, for the future, ſhall dare to go out of the Kingdom, under Penalty of the Galleys, *&c.* That ſuch Declarations as have been made againſt thoſe that relapſed, ſhall be in force; but, laſt of all, it grants the Reformed liberty to remain where they pleaſe, in the Kingdom; to continue their Trade, enjoy their Goods, without any moleſtation or trouble, under pretence of their Religion; upon condition notwithſtanding that they ſhall not exerciſe the ſame, nor keep any Aſſemblies under pretence of Prayers or any other Worſhip whatſoever. But how ſpecious ſoever this Article may ſeem, it's already apparent, that 'tis but a meer Illuſion, and that there is much Cruelty couched under it: It would inſinuate to us, that the King had no deſign to forbid domeſtick Worſhip, and to enforce Mens Conſciences, ſince this expreſſion, *Till ſuch time*

as God ſhall be pleaſed to enlighten them, has been added, as one fine-ſpun Thread to the reſt of the Net: but the *Court* and *Clergy* have made it already appear, that this was the leaſt of their Thoughts, ſince they have actually cauſed the Troops to march towards the Provinces that have not yet been ravaged; tho' at the ſame time the chief Magiſtrate of this *City* has aſſembled the principal Merchants here together, to confirm to them, by word of Mouth, what was contain'd in the Edict, and to aſſure them, they had nothing to fear upon that account. And this has had a very pernicious effect already, for it has ſent many home into their Houſes again, who had taken meaſures to be gone, with their Families, out of the Kingdom; for the moſt diſtruſtful perſons could not perſwade themſelves, that ſo ſolemn a Promiſe could be made with an intention to break it the next opportunity; but Experience has very quickly taught them, that the Imprudence to return was to no other effect, than to receive the Dragoons into their Houſes; and now, when 'tis too late, they come to know, that the Marqueſs *de Chateaunent* had no other deſign, than to lay a Snare for the credulous, by a baſe equivocating Phraſe, and ſuch as the Jeſuites uſually have made uſe of in forming the Orders and Declarations concerning Religion, which have paſſed thro' their Hands; and that by adding to thoſe words, *waiting till the Lord ſhall be pleaſed to enlighten them*, theſe ſame, *as others*; he meant no other, than that the Dragoons, who had enlightned the firſt Converts, ſhould alſo be the Diſpenſers of the ſame Light to thoſe who continued ſtill ſtiff and opinionative. But I ſhall, in my next, give your Lordſhip further

Information of this baſe and double-dealing, ſo much to the Diſhonour of this *Court*, and the Miniſters of it, from whom, as in the Litany, ------ I commend your Lordſhip to the Divine Protection, and ſhall ever while I live do ſo, and remain,

My Lord,

Paris, Dec. 10. 1685. N. S.

Your Lordſhip's moſt devoted Servant.

LETTER XV.

Of the Marqueſs of Louvois's *Letter, authorizing the ſevere Proſecution of the Reformed. As alſo an Order by him ſigned to the ſame purpoſe.*

My Lord,

I Have made a kind of a Promiſe to your Lordſhip, when I writ laſt, to give you ſome further explication of the double-dealing of this Court upon the ſubject-matter of the Edict of the Revocation, and particularly that Article that ſeemed to contain ſo much in favour of the Reformed; and ſuch, my Lord, it was, that the very *Romaniſts* themſelves thought fit to ſuſpend the courſe of their violent Proceedings againſt them upon it: And therefore Monſieur the Duke *de Noailles*, who had receiv'd Orders for the Province of *Languedoc*, which that

that Clauſe formerly mention'd ſeem'd to revoke, had, upon the peruſing of it, recourſe to the *Delphian* Oracle of this Country, for the ſolution of ſo great a Difficulty; upon which the Marqueſs *de Louvois*, the *Gallican Apollo*, ſoon diſabuſed him, and returned to his Queſtion this deciſive Article: *I doubt not, but the quartering of a few Troopers more than ordinary upon thoſe few of the Gentry and Commoners, that ſtill remain of the Reformed Religion, will quickly undeceive them, and convince them of the Miſtake they have been in concerning the Edict, which Monſieur* de Chateauneuf *hath drawn up; and His Majeſty's Pleaſure is, That you would make an explication of the ſame very ſeverely againſt all thoſe, who will be the laſt to make a profeſſion of a Religion that does not pleaſe him, and the exerciſe whereof he hath thought fit to prohibit through all his Dominions.* But, my Lord, this is not the only Letter nor Order to this purpoſe; for I have had the advantage to ſee ſome others to the Officers of the Army and Intendants; importing, That for the further convincing of the incredulous, it was declar'd, thoſe Violences were order'd by the Council; and, in ſhort, the Marqueſs *de Louvois* was the principal Author of theſe cruel Expedients: But, above all the reſt, I have privately ſeen an Order ſigned by him, wherein is expreſs'd, That the Copy thereof ſhould be ſent to the Marqueſs *de Verac*, and which ended with theſe remarkable words: *It is His Majeſty's Will and Pleaſure, that you make uſe of the utmoſt Rigour and Severity againſt all thoſe who are not willing to become of his Religion; And thoſe who will have the Vain-glory to continue to the laſt of the number, muſt be uſed and*

preſt upon to the utmoſt extremity. I'll leave it to your Lordſhip's Wiſdom and known Sagacity, to ruminate upon and judge of this Legerdemain Procedure, and crave leave to acknowledge (tho' it be never out of my mind) the many Favours you have been pleas'd to ſhew upon all occaſions to,

Paris, Decemb. 14. 1685. *n.ſt.*

My Lord,

Your Honour's, humble ſervant.

LETTER XVI.

Of an Order prohibiting the Reformed to frequent the Chappels or Houſes of the Ambaſſadors of Foreign Princes.

My Lord,

OUR Court here, it ſeems, have thought it a little too low to deſcend to forbid the Reformed to frequent the Proteſtant Chappels of Foreign Miniſters, and therefore they have conſigned that piece of Drudgery unto the Civil Magiſtrate of this City, who has done it in ſuch terms as are as like to another Equivocation I have already mention'd to your Lordſhip, that it cannot otherwiſe be than a Pig of the ſame Sow; for the Order does not mention, *That thoſe who were ſtill of the Reformed Religion ſhould not be preſent at any Divine Worſhip in the Houſes of Ambaſſadors, and of other*

other Miniſters of Foreign Potentates; but it has a term of Expreſſion that is very ſingular and pretty, calling them *thoſe who ſay, they are ſtill of the Reformed Religion*; as if it were now ſomewhat ſtrange or criminal, after what hath been mention'd in the latter clauſe of the Edict of Revocation, whereof I have ſome time ſince taken particular notice to your Lordſhip, to continue ſtill of that Religion, to which it hath promiſed ſo little ſupport, or uſe the freedom to ſay it: But hereby 'tis plain, they are intent to cut off the only Reſource and Conſolation they had left them under their hard Fortune, by enjoyning 'em not to frequent thoſe Religious Exerciſes practiſed in privileg'd and exempt Houſes. And while the *Roman-Catholicks* in all *Proteſtant Countries* have the Liberty publickly to be preſent at their own way of Religious Worſhip, which is celebrated in the Houſes of all *Popiſh* Ambaſſadors, the unhappy Remnant of the *French Proteſtants* are hereby utterly deprived of the little Conveniency which they had, both ſeldom and ſecretly, of preſenting themſelves at the Houſes of *Proteſtant* Ambaſſadors, there to pay their Devotions with ſome marks of Union. One ſhould think, my Lord, the *Foreign Potentates* ſhould reſent this; but, alas! that Intereſt ſeems to be quite in the Wain, ſince our Native Country has left holding the Scales, which I cannot leſs than deplore, tho it's out of my power to redreſs: But, who knows what your Lordſhip ----- I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Dec. 16. 1685. *N. S.*

Yours in ſincereſt Affection and Senſe of Duty.

LETTER XVII.

The Reformed in France *are prohibited to entertain any other Servants than old* Catholicks, *&c.*

My Lord,

THIS Kingdom ſwarms ſtill, as it has done for ſome months backwards, with meer Edicts and Declarations; and that chiefly about the poor diſtreſſed *Reformed*, whom they think they can never depreſs low enough. It was in *July* laſt that they were forbidden to take any Domeſticks into their Service that were of the *Roman* Communion; and now they are order'd to take none but old *Romaniſts* to be their domeſtick Servants; and the ſame Injunctions reach alſo the new Converts. It's a ſad and melancholy Subject, I do confeſs, but were it of leſs importance, one could not forbear laughing, to conſider, that what was pitched upon as highly uſeful and neceſſary, in the Month of *July*, for to obſtruct the pervertion of *Catholicks*, could ſome five months after retard the Converſion of ſuch as might have been of the *Reformed Way* in the Service of perſons of the ſame Religion; as if in the Month of *July*, when almoſt half the Kingdom was over-run with Dragoons, and who did every where commit the terribleſt Ravages imaginable, any one in his Wits could imagine that thoſe of the *Reformed Religion* ſhould think upon the perverting of any

any of the *Roman-Catholicks* to their Way; or that in the Month of *December* the handful of the *Reformed*, who are accuſed by the King's Declaration to perſevere ſtill in their erroneous Opinions, are in a condition to take into their Service all the reſt of the *Reformed*, who are brought to a ſtate of ſerving other People to gain them an honeſt Livelihood, and by this way to hinder the efficacious means, which the King declares he doth make uſe of for the reducing of this poor People to Obedience. It's impoſſible for me, my Lord, to decipher to you the daily Hardſhips put upon theſe forlorn People, whoſe *Miſeries* daily have an appearance of further aggravation and encreaſe, which, I know, muſt aggravate your Sorrow, and therefore I ſhall forbear any further enlargements hereupon, and content my ſelf to profeſs how ready I am to give your Lordſhip all the Satisfaction that lies in my power, and to continue,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 16. 1686. *N. S.*

Your Honour's moſt humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER XVIII.

Of Alien Proteſtants, *their Uſage in* France; *and the Severities ſhew'd to the* Dutch *Conſul at* Nants, *and others.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip may have been deſirous to know all this while, that ſince the *French* have been ſo cruel to their own Fellow-ſubjects and Natives, how Strangers fare amongſt them; and therefore I ſhall give your Honour my Thoughts upon this matter, as far as any Particulars have come to my Knowledge. It's not long ſince that we have ſeen an Order here, giving Leave to all *Proteſtant* Strangers to have free egreſs and regreſs into the Kingdom, with their Wives, Children, Servants, and others of their Nation, at Will, and with the ſame Freedom and Liberty which they enjoy'd in times paſt; but they are ſtrictly charg'd to carry none of the King's Subjects out with them, without expreſs Leave under the Secretary of State's Hands, nor to exerciſe their own Religion, *whatever Religion they be of*; which laſt words were ſlidden in craftily by the Jeſuites, after that of *Proteſtants*, to the end they might enhance the Diviſions amongſt them, from which the *Miſſionaries* drew their greateſt Arguments to entrap the ſimple and ignorant, and whereby they would tacitely inſinuate, That all the Sects which at this day diſhonour the Chriſtian Re-

Religion, and which agree in any one thing with *Proteſtaniſm*, are ſo many *Proteſtant* Sects: Tho' it's well known to the World, that all *True Proteſtants* both ſhun and abhor their Communion. Such an Order was certainly, at this time, highly neceſſary; for, tho' no Orders have been iſſued out for to hinder thoſe who would not become *Romaniſts* to enter the Kingdom, yet the Court was afraid their rigorous Proceedings againſt their own Natives would deter others, as thinking they could expect no better Treatment, nor more Safety in their Perſons and Eſtates in *France* than natural *Frenchmen*; but how little Benefit many Alien *Proteſtants* have received hereby, is notoriouſly known in every part of this Kingdom; and the *Dutch* Conſul at *Nants* has ſadly experienc'd the ſame; tho' one ſhould have thought his Quality was able to ſecure him againſt any Violences to be offer'd him in that kind. It has been uſual, my Lord, for Foreigners, who have reſided in this Kingdom, relying upon the Publick Faith, and flouriſhing by Commerce, to love to take care to preſerve the Fruit of their Toil and Pains in a Country where the Right of Inheritance took place upon their taking Letters of Naturalization; wherefore many ſuch are to be found here this day, who never dreamt that they ſhould be moleſted in their Religion, and thereby run the hazard of loſing their Eſtates alſo, as thinking it to be a matter very conformable to the Rules of Juſtice and the Law of Nature and of Nations, that they ſhould be reduc'd to their primitive ſtates, as others, when the Kingdom thought fit to revoke the Edicts, under the protection and duration whereof they had made theſe Advances; and alledging, That

they

they did not become *Frenchmen*, but conditionally, that they might enjoy the Freedom of their Conſciences; ſeeing without that they would never have taken thoſe Engagements: or if the Government thought not fit to obſerve them, the leaſt it could do, was to remit them to their former Liberty, and to give them their Choice, either to enjoy the Priviledge of their Letters, whereby they were naturaliz'd, by turning *Roman-Catholicks*, or to loſe that Advantage, and to be look'd upon for the future as no other than Strangers, if they perſevered in their own Religion. But theſe Pleas, tho' full of Reaſon and Equity, hath little availed any of them, for they have been generally treated with the ſame Rigor and Severity as the reſt have been: And to this end there are and have been forty ſnivelling Pretences rais'd, to involve them in the ſame Miſery; if any of them have *French* Wives; if they have Children by them of ſuch an age, born in this Kingdom; or if they have a Father or Mother-in-law living with them; this is enough to quarter the Dragoons upon them. In ſhort, my Lord, I cannot ſee how it can be ſafe for any *Proteſtant* to come and reſide in this Country, notwithſtanding what is contained in the forementioned Order; for tho' this Court might be punctual in the obſervance of it according to the Letter, yet ſeeing it doth poſitively forbid, that ſuch Strangers ſhould exerciſe their *Religion* here, it brings but a ſmall Remedy to the Evil they have apprehended might ariſe by the Fear which might poſſeſs the Minds of Foreigners from reſiding and trafficking amongſt them, unleſs ſuch *Proteſtant* Alliens will be content (which cannot be generally thought of them) to live with-

without any Worſhip at all; for they muſt expect, if they do otherwiſe, tho' it be their private Devotions only in their Families, to be liable to the Rigors of the ſame Inquiſition with the *French Proteſtants* themſelves. I find they are reſolved here to carry all things with an high hand; I heartily wiſh it may be no Pattern to our ------- I remain,

My Lord,

Paris, June 2. 1686. *N. S.*

Your moſt humble and moſt devoted Servant.

LETTER XIX.

Concerning the Ignorance of Popiſh *Convents.*

My Lord,

IT's ſcarce credible how ignorant the *Popiſh* Convents in this Country are of all good Literature, eſpecially the Women-kind, who have entertained ſuch monſtrous Notions concerning the Principles of the Reformed Churches, that without I had had it from inconteſtable Teſtimonies, I ſhould not abuſe your Lordſhip, and hazard my Reputation with you ſo far, as to mention it to you. I know not whether I have formerly given your Honour to underſtand, that it has been a frequent Practiſe here to put young Maidens of the *Proteſtant* Faith into Religious Houſes, to be tutor'd there

there, in the *Catholick Faith*, and where they have found the groſſeſt Ignorance both of their Principles and Practiſes, as ever would have entred into the Thoughts of rational Animals: They have looked upon and entertained them as if they were ſuch as had no Belief in *Jeſus Chriſt*; and not only ſo, but as ſuch as did not pray to God, but invoked *Calvin* or *Luther* only; by others they were looked upon as *Jews* that had not been circumcis'd, or did not eat any Swines-fleſh. With a thouſand ſuch *Chimera's* and Abſurdities have the crafty Prieſts fill'd the Noddles of thoſe ſimple Women, who think all they ſay an Oracle. But tho' many diſtreſſed perſons have been extream Sufferers, and felt the Effects of theſe Prejudices in a moſt rigorous manner, yet we are not without Examples of others, who when by their Piety, Innocence, and Knowledge they had diſabuſed thoſe who have the charge of them, have been treated by them with much Tenderneſs and Humanity. I would not, my Lord, have continued a Correſpondence ſo little to your Honour's Information, had I not lain under your Commands for my ſo doing, and that you have always expreſs'd your Satisfaction with my Endeavours to ſerve you, who am,

My Lord,

Yours, in all humble

Obſervance.

Paris, July 7. 1686. *N.S.*

LET-

LETTER XX.

Of Mareſchal Schomberg, *and the M.* de Rüvigni's *Retreat out of* France; *and of the Favour ſhew'd to the Marqueſs* du Queſne, *with the Reaſons thereof.*

My Lord,

I Do not queſtion but your Lordſhip had acquaintance with Mareſchal *Schomberg*, when ſome Years ago in *England*; you may, perhaps, ſee him there again in a ſhort time, for he hath with very great difficulty, notwithſtanding his many and ſignal Services for this Crown, obtained Leave to depart the Kingdom, but under very hard Reſtrictions, the number of his Domeſticks being limited, and the Veſſel wherein he embark'd view'd very narrowly: The Court before his departure appointed him *Portugal* for his Retreat, that ſo that ſame Country, where he has been known for ſo many Victories, might become unto him rather a place of Exile, than Retreat. The Marqueſs *de Ruvigni* had always ſome meaſure of the King's Favour, but that, together with all the Intereſt he has had with his Miniſters of State, were little enough to procure him Leave to retire with his Family into *England*; but whether arrived there, your Lordſhip can tell much better than I. As for the Marqueſs *de Queſne*, tho' fourſcore Year old, and a perſon that hath deſerved ſo much for his long

long and glorious Services, and under whoſe Conduct the Naval Power of this Kingdom, heretofore ſo inconſiderable, was become formidable to all the World; yet he hath not been able to obtain Leave to go finiſh his Days in a *Proteſtant* Country: But the Court have complemented him ſeemingly with a great Favour, *viz.* to continue in this City, with Aſſurance he ſhall not be moleſted upon the ſcore of his Religion; but no doubt but this Favour hath proceeded more from Court-policy than any Good-will; for they are, it's very likely, afraid, that had they granted him Leave to depart the Kingdom, he might go and inform Strangers of the ſtate of their marine affairs, the Weakneſs and Defects whereof he knows, as well as he can diſcover the Strength and Power of the ſame; and as for the Liberty of his Conſcience granted him, they found that alſo expedient, to hinder him to practiſe his eſcape by one Artifice or other, if he were menaced with any Conſtraint. I did not think once matters would have been brought to this paſs here; but when they are at the worſt, there will be Hopes they will mend, as I hope I ſhall in my Intelligence to your Lordſhip, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Sept. 4. 1686. *N.S.*

Devoted to ſerve you.

LET-

LETTER XXI.

Of Monſieur Claude's *Book, entituled,* A Proteſtation, in the Name of the Reformed; *winked at in* France, *and King* James *made their Drudge to burn it in* England.

My Lord,

TO think that your Lordſhip hath not ſeen and read Monſieur *Claud's Proteſtation in the Name of the Reformed,* were to judge very diſreſpectfully and *diminitively* of your Curioſity, and therefore for me to deſcant upon it, cannot but be nauſeous; but give me leave to obſerve to your Lordſhip the different Procedure of the two Courts at this time, tho' its not doubted here, and I hope in a ſhort time to give you a further account of it; but that they are entred into very cloſe Meaſures and Deſigns together, which will appear in due Place: Nothing can be heard on this Side but the loud and dreadful Cry, of *Conſtrain them all to come in,* while our Emiſſaries, in conjunction with their Popiſh Leyitical Brethren on your Side, are a preaching up a general Indulgence to tender Conſciences, and a Sovereign Duty, to grant equal Toleration to all Opinions; and one would almoſt believe both are ſincere. But, my Lord, the Burning of the foreſaid Book, which is an Abridgment of the Hiſtory of the Perſecution, by our King's Order, under Pre-

tence of its containing a Doctrine contrary to the Authority of Kings, is an ill Proof of the latter; and an half-ſighted Man cannot but ſee, that maugre all the Inclination that ſeems to be in the Court, towards granting Indulgence to others, their Deſigns muſt have quite another Tendency; but I find this Court has got the Aſcendency, for they have cunningly enough judged it more profitable to diſſemble the Injury they conceive they have received by the foreſaid Book, than to take a Publick Revenge, for fear leſt all the World *ſhould come* to read a Piece that was ſo dangerous to them and obnoxious to their Intereſt; and when they well knew they had formed a Tool to do that to their Hands, with leſs Envy to themſelves and more to : : : : : When ever they required it; I heartily beg your Lordſhips Pardon for my Freedom with you, who am,

My Lord,

Paris Nov. 6. 1686. *Your very humble Servant.*

LETTER XXII.

Of the League made between King James *II. and the* French *King*, Lewis *XIV.*

My Lord,

I Have once hinted to your Lordſhip, That both Courts were entred into very cloſe Meaſures and Deſigns for to eſtabliſh themſelves to

to the Prejudice of their Neighbours; as I ſhould have been, and am very ſorry to have diſappointed your Expectations, after ſuch Intimations given you, I do now as much rejoyce that I have, tho' I may ſay, ſurreptitiouſly, got the Heads of the League lately made between them; for it is here with our Minutes as with other things, when they are freſh they are more choice and fond of them. And it was agreed in general, That our King ſhould joyn with the *French* King in a War againſt *Holland*, both by Sea and Land, but in order to carry the ſame effectually on, it was more particularly concerted.

I. That they ſhall both endeavour to draw the Prince of *Orange* to connive at ſuch a War, and to conſent to the Abolition of the Penal Laws and Teſt againſt the *Roman Catholicks*, with ſpecious Promiſes of making him Prince of *Holland*, ſecure his Succeſſion in *England*, and of many other great Proffers and Advantages; but in caſe he proves ſtiff, to endeavour to make a total Conqueſt of that Country, and ſhare it between themſelves, as was projected in the laſt *Dutch* War: And whereof, to the beſt of my Remembrance, I have given your Lordſhip a particular Relation; and then to find out ſome effectual Expedients to put the Prince of *Orange* by too of his Succeſſion in *England*.

II. That upon ſuppoſal that the Prince ſhall refuſe to comply with them in their projected Deſigns; that then the *Engliſh* and *Scotch* Forces ſhall be recalled out of the *Dutch* Service, and be ſent immediately into that of *France*, to be employed for a Time in remoter Campaigns,

towards *Spain* or *Italy*, and for want of such Service, in Garrisons, for fear they shall turn Tail and revolt, and so the Prince and the States of *Holland* shall be before-hand weakened, and the *French* considerably strengthened.

III. That some thousands of the *French* choice Men, as of the King's Gentlemen Musqueteers, and others, shall insensibly be brought into *England*, if the King finds his Occasions so require it, to be mixt with the *English* Troops, under Pretence of learning the other a more perfect Discipline.

IV. That they shall both joyn their Forces at Sea, with all Strength possible.

V. That a good Body of *French*, *English*, *Scotch* and *Irish* Troops shall be put on Board both the Fleets, that so a Mixture may be made in both, to the end it may create less Jealousie; and that the rest of the *English* and other *British* Troops, that can be conveniently spared from *England*, shall be employed in the Land-Armies, against the Republick of *Holland*.

VI. That after the War be once declared, such *French* Refugees as will shew themselves willing to serve under the *English* Banner against *Holland*, shall enjoy the Revenues which they had in *France*, tho' they shall not be suffered to dwell there.

VII. That neither side shall desist from the War, till a total Conquest be made of the said Country, which they think themselves sure enough of: And that when *Holland* shall be subjected by their united Force, there will then be no more Fear of any Opposition in *England* to prevent the King from raising Arbitrary Power and the Roman Catholick Religion there to the same heighth as it is in *France*, nor from con-

concurring with the *French* King, till he ſhall obtain the Empire for himſelf.

VIII. That the *French* King ſhall pay all the *Britiſh* Forces in *Flanders* and elſwhere, and be content to defray half the Charges of the War, that our King with his Pecuniary Aſſiſtance may be enabled to hold on the War with Vigour and Conſtancy enough for to make a Conqueſt; but that afterwards, for a Recompence, he ſhall be obliged to aſſiſt *France* in any future War with thirty Capital Ships, and twenty thouſand Men, at half Charges born.

Your Lordſhip knows, much better to make a a Judgment of ſuch a League than I can pretend to, but I perceive the effect will be dreadful, not only to poor *Holland* but to *England* too, without the neighbouring Potentates be timemouſly awakened to ward the Blow; and that ſuch worthy Patriots as your ſelf rowſe up and ſtand in the Gap: But I pretend not to dictate to your Lordſhip what every generous *Engliſh* Man's Duty is to God and his Country upon ſuch an occaſion, and ſo conclude with ſubſcribing my ſelf,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 24. 1687. *S.N.*

Your very humble Servant

LETTER XXIII.

Of Methods to be practiſed by King James *for keeping up the Diſpenſing Power, and and particularly about diſcarding the Militia of the Kingdom.*

My Lord,

I Have upon another occaſion hinted ſomewhat to your Lordſhip of thoſe Arguments urged to the King for the promoting of the Diſpenſing Power; and you know very well, ſince it has been put in practiſe in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, in the Caſe of Sir *F. H.* and how that matter terminated to the King's Satisfaction, and further heightening of his Perogative Royal, and how the ſame was eſtabliſhed by the Concurrence of the Judges of the Land, if they may be ſo called, who authorized the ſame: Theſe Points being gained, another Matter and that of an higher Conſequence was agitated in the Cabinet Council, *viz.* to uſe ſome means totally *to diſcard* the Militia of *England*, and in liew of them to retain Standing Troops in the Nation; and to throw a little Duſt in the People's Eyes, and amuſe them ſo as that they might take little notice, or at leaſt not oppoſe thoſe their Proceedings, it was adviſed to act theſe previous things.

In order to Ballance the great Power of the City of *London*, it was projected to grant a Charter to that of *Weſtminſter*, and that under

der the Pretence of its being the Royal Reſidence of the Kings of *England*, and of the ſupreme Court of Parliament, and therefore ought to be dignified with as ample Previledges as any City in the King's Dominions, *London* it ſelf not excepted; and to have a Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, Sheriffs, and all other Officers neceſſary both for the Support and Grandure of it; that great Encouragement ſhould be given to rich Merchants, wealthy Tradeſmen, *&c.* to dwell there, and to tranſport a great part of their Trade thither, which would cauſe them to ſtick cloſe to the Court, and Intereſts thereof.

And had this ſame Project gone on, it was alſo projected to have a new Stone-Bridge, imitating that of *London*, but built much broader, and more convenient, erected between the *Palace-yard* and the *Horſe-Ferry*, and the King ſeems very eager and forward to promote ſo uſeful a Work.

Then the *Mews* was to be ditched round, and great care taken, as well as Expedition uſed to have it filled with Stabling and other Buildings, fit to receive and lodge a good Body of Horſe, and to be made a Cittadel, under Pretence that ſuch Troops ſhould not be Troubleſom and a Burthen to the ſaid City.

And when all this was accompliſh'd, which was concerted to have been brought about in a ſhort Time, then the Militia of the Kingdom was to be new modelled, two or three Times over, and the new Lords Lieutenants of Counties, and other Officers chopp'd and chang'd to the Court's Mind, who ſhould ſhew themſelves willing to obey the Orders they were to follow, which were to this effect. That the

Militia ſhould be ordered to meet in their ſeveral reſpective diſtricts, and there the Lord Lieutenants for the Time being were to acquaint them, *That ſince to ſerve in the Militia was but a trouble to them, as well as a Charge and Burthen to the Country, yet without any Uſe or Security to the Crown or Kingdom, when all our Neighbour Nations were armed with Veteran Troops, the King was adviſed and now* thought fit *to diſcharge them of the Trouble, and the Country of the Charge of maintaining of them for the future*; and ſo order them to deliver up their Arms, to be diſtributed among regular Troops, that would be more uſeful and ſerviceable. But before this was to be put in Execution, it was, my Lord, reſolved, a Toleration of Religion ſhould be firſt granted, and ſevere Orders given to the Soldiers for to pay their Quarters duly, demean themſelves quietly and orderly, and to abſtain from any manner of Violence; and all manner of Perſons, as well Proteſtants, Diſſenters from the Church of *England*, as others of the *Roman* Communion, ſhould be admitted into the Army, either as Officers or Soldiers, and if any of the Churchmen ſhould grumble thereat, and begin to ſtomach it, it ſhould be alledged, *There was no Reaſon in the World the King ſhould be deprived of the Services of any of his Subjects however denominated, as to their reſpective Religions, for the Carping of a few Churchmen, who were more concerned for their own worldly Intereſts, and ſo would have all Places of Profit confined to thoſe of their own Stamp, than they were for the real Intereſt of the Church.* Then there were to be ſufficient Bodies of Soldiers to be placed all over *England*, to aſſiſt the Lords Lieutenants

to

to ſee all the forementioned *Orders* put quietly in Execution, and ready to ſuppreſs any Tumult that might be occaſioned thereby. This, my Lord, was the Projection, I ſhall endeavour to give your Lordſhip, in my next, an account of the Oppoſition made hereunto, as this and the reſt have been lately entred here in our Minutes, from Papers tranſmitted by the Reſident of *Modena* and Count *Dada* the Pope's Nuntio in *England*, to the Reſident of that Name, and Papal Nuncio in this Kingdom, and by them communicated to Monſieur *Louvois*; till then I am and ever ſhall be,

My Lord,

Paris, Feb. 9. 1687. *N.S.*

Your humble Servant.

LETTER XXIV.

Of the Oppoſition made by ſeveral Noblemen, and particularly by the Lord Marqueſs of Powis, *againſt diſcarding the Militia of the Kingdom.*

My Lord,

'TIs but a few Days ſince I ſent to your Lordſhip the particular Reſolutions formed in the Cabinet Council, of diſcarding the Militia, and other Methods that were to be purſued, as either previous to or ſubſequent of ſuch a Deſign; and now, I can aſſure your Lordſhip, That

That ſame Project was chiefly broken by the Marqueſs of *H.* D---- of *N.* and ſome other Noble Perſons and worthy Patriots; but the Marqueſs of *Powis* had a greater Hand in it than any of them, as being of greater Credit with the King, who repreſented how dangerous and in a Word how impracticable ſuch a Project was; *For*, ſaid he, *it will be impoſſible to find ſuch Lord Lieutenants in the Kingdom as will undertake to put the ſame in Execution, nor no Officers that will obey, If they could find ſuch; that ſuch a Practice would neceſſitate the King to call in a* French *Army, which would as much inſlave his Majeſty to the* French *as his own People would be thereby inthralled to him, and that he might aſſure himſelf the* French *Faction had no other Intent in adviſing him to it.* So that I find, my Lord, it was reſolved to let the Militia alone as it is, and go on to ſecure their Proceedings, by ſtuffing the Army with a Mixture of Nations as well as Perſwaſions, and to chop and change them ſo often, till at laſt they ſhall get *Roman* Catholicks enough in their Troops ſo as conſiderably *to outnumber* the Proteſtants there, without calling in any Bodies of *French.* Which Reſolution, as I find it did not fully content this Court, ſo it hath madded them to uſe Stratagems to counterpoiſe it, by putting the King upon unſeaſonable and impolitick Artifices, and among others, to model and pack Parliaments, whereof I ſhall be able in my next, I think, to procure your Lordſhip the Projects laid before him, humbly hoping you'll take all in good part from one that has an *Engliſh* Heart, and will love both his Country and your Lordſhip, whilſt I am.

Paris Feb. 17. 168⅞. *N.S.*

LET-

LETTER XXV.

Propoſitions made to King James *II. by the* French *Agents for modelling and bridling of Parliaments.*

My Lord,

I Find abundance of Projects offered to the King by the Agency of this Court concerning modelling and bridling of *English* Parliaments; ſome were for putting in Execution the Adviſes given formerly for that purpoſe to King *J.* I. ſpecified I think in *Ruſhworth's* Collections, to which I refer your Lordſhip, but that *Propoſition* was rejected, and others of more modern date urged upon him, and particularly there were ſome who would have him procure a Parliament by *Oliver Cromwel's* Methods, chiefly to be compoſed of the Officers of the Army, with an Intermixture of ſome few others; and that being effected, he might by them increaſe very much the Revenue of his Crown, by ſetting up again the *Court of Wards* and the Right of Purveyance, and by obliging all ſuch Noblemen who were by their Tenures anciently obliged to furniſh ſo many Horſe and Men, and other Neceſſaries, in the Wars either againſt *France* or *Scotland*, to ſupply a full Equivalent towards Ships, Men, Artillery, Proviſions, *&c.* for a War with the Republick of *Holland*, or any other Enemy whatſoever; which they would have called for the greater Amuſement of the Peo-

People, a reſtoring to the Crown the Jewels which had been uſurped from it; which that it might be further ſecured, it was likewiſe adviſed, That a *Star Chamber*, with the ſame Juriſdiction as in the King's Father's Time, ſhould be ſet up again; as alſo an High Commiſſion, which laſt tho' a ſort of Tribunal introduced into *England*, ſince it had proved ſchiſmatical, and that the Kings thereof had been declared *Head of the Church*, yet it might very well ſerve a preſent Turn, and give the leſs Jealouſie of his deſigning to introduce the *Roman* Catholick Religion among them thereby; but that if he did not look upon that Expedient ſeaſonable, and that the rather becauſe it had been aboliſhed in Parliament as a Grievance to the Subject; he had no reaſon to oppoſe the ſetting up of an Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſion, ſince the Parliament themſelves had erected the ſame, tho' with a more limited Power than the other in lieu of it; and ſince they had judged it neceſſary for the repreſſing of the Inſolencies of the Churchmen, regulating their Manners, and obliging them to diſcharge their reſpective Duties in their ſeveral Stations, He being a Catholick King had more reaſon than any other to make uſe of it; the laſt your Lordſhip has ſeen, they have gained, and tho' the King hath a great Stomach to that other, yet my Lord *Powis*'s Party hath yet prevailed and affrightned him from venturing upon ſuch things without he had been able, as he found he was not, to have ſucceeded in pulling down the Militia of Kingdom, or at leaſt in getting ſuch an Army which he could fully rely upon, and that he hath not yet got neither; but till then he could not pretend to declare the Grand Charter void,

as

as obtained by Force of Arms, and ſince infringed and nullified by ſeveral Rebellions, but eſpecially by that in his Fathers time, on the Subjects ſide, and now rule by a Council only without troubling himſelf with any thing more like unto a Parliament as his *French* Friends Adviſed him to. your Lordſhip will excuſe the Freedom I have now and always uſed in my Correſpondence, and accept of my humble duty who am and ever intend to continue,

My Lord,

Paris, April 7. 1687. *N. S.*

Your Honours to Command.

LETTER XXVI.

The ſubſtance of Pope Innocent XI. *Firſt Letter to the* French *King, about the buſineſs of the* Regale.

I Cannot think but it will be acceptable to your Lordſhip to underſtand what the Contents of the Pope's Letters to the *French* King are, eſpecially in ſuch a conjuncture as this is, and when I believe you cannot be furniſh'd with a genuine account by any other hand; after the prefatory part which is ſhort and conciſe and ſomewhat different from others of his Predeceſſors, he comes cloſe to the matter and ſays, that he could not but reflect with

with no ſmall Aſtoniſhment as well as great Grief and ſadneſs of heart upon the late unaccountable Conduct of ſo great a Prince, who would be thought to be and called himſelf the firſt Son to the Catholick Church, and withal the moſt Chriſtian King againſt the holy See of *Rome*; that he ſhould as much as pretend to ſo much Zeal for Religion, and yet at the ſame time, to invade the known rights of the Catholick Church; not only in the Kingdom of *France*, but even in the City of *Rome* herſelf, by pretending to a pernicious Freedom of Quarters, which all other Catholick Princes had freely and generouſly renounced as a groſs abuſe.

That his Perſecuting the Proteſtants in the Kingdom of *France* ought no ways to priviſedge him to put affronts upon the holy See; it was very plain that was not the way to reunite thoſe people to the Church, when he himſelf was ſo ill a Pattern, and ſhewed them ſo bad an Example, by contemning and outraging that ſame *Authority*, which he uſed Force and Violence to make them own; That he was much in the wrong, and acted preposterouſly to Proſecute them for not believing what he himſelf ſo Scandalouſly oppoſed; And that for himſelf at the bottom, he was not of a Perſecuting Spirit and Principle; but that he was fully convinced, it was never Chriſt our Saviour, nor any of his Apoſtles way, who themſelves never were nor ever uſed any Preachers with long Tails, Boots and Spurs, *&c.* That ſuch a practice had done moſt diſgrace to and created, as well it might, more implacable prejudice againſt the *Roman Catholick Religion* than any thing elſe whatſoever,

and

and ſo by Conſequence had much more obſtructed than advanced the propagation of it: That it ought never to be uſed in any Kingdom already infected with hereſie, tho' it's true, it were a very good fence againſt its creeping in where it had yet got no footing; That it would be a means to blaſt all the blooming hopes of the *Catholick Cauſe* in the Kingdom of *England*, and ingender pernicious Jealouſies and a moſt cruel Oppoſition in the *Engliſh*, a ſtiff necked people and the moſt Jealous of their Religion and Liberties of any Nation upon the Earth, againſt their King who was a true Son of the Church, and break the Neck of all his deſigns for the Introducing of it into his Dominions: And in a word, that he was ſo far from approving of it, that he every way diſliked it, and that it ſhould not throw duſt in his Eyes from inſpecting into and oppoſing of his incroachments upon the holy See, which he was reſolved to defend to the utmoſt extreamity; and ſo concluded with a ſhort admonition, and with which concludes this Letter to your Lordſhip from him who is,

My Lord,

Paris, June 3. 1687. *Your moſt Devoted Servant.*

LET-

LETTER XXVII.

An account of Pope Innocent XI. *Second Letter to the* French *King about perſecuting the* French *Proteſtants*, &c.

My Lord,

SInce my laſt I have had the opportunity to take the Heads of another Letter written ſoon after that I have already ſent you, by the Pope to the *French* King, and is to this purpoſe.

In the firſt place he takes upon him to refute the Anſwers and frivolous Complaints of the *French* King, and then deſcends to ridicule his vain pretence of Piety in perſecuting the Proteſtants of his Kingdom for denying him Obedience, while he was no leſs ſevere to the Biſhops of *Alet* and *Pamiers* and ſome other Eccleſiaſticks, and even to ſome poor Abeſſes and their Nuns for paying that Obedience which was due to the papal Authority; that this did not only look like it, but really was nothing leſs but building up the Church with the Left Hand and at the ſame time pulling it down with the Right.

That he was well informed what writings came out in *France* againſt his Authority, which he well knew, was that of the holy Apoſtolick See; what *Theſes* were there maintained, and what was done by his over awing the

the Assembly of the Clergy of his Kingdom, how and what method, he had taken to vel the *French* Jesuits against him, and imployed *Maimburg*, to represent his supremacy as precarious, Itineran and Ambulatory; and not fixt to the City of *Rome* herself, but only to the *Capital* City of the most powerfull Christian Prince in the World for the time; that is, *gallice* to *Paris* in the present Age: that he well understood not only this, but also the designs that were formed by him to erect a new Religion which should Totally swallow up and devour both *Roman* Catholicks and *Protestants*, and how far he purposed to imitate King *Henry* VIII. of *England*, who writ a Book for the Pope's supremacy, and not long after Burnt aed Beheaded people for owning it; when also at the very same Time he persecuted the Protestants for opposing other points.

That it very ill became and it was not the part of a Dutifull and Religious Son as he pretended to be and would have the World believe, to abuse his supream Pastor; to dispoil him not only of his Ancient rights, granted him by his Pious Predecessors, but even of those very ones which he then injoyed and were derived by Universal consent and constant tradition of all good Catholicks, and of the rights of his just Sovereignity in the City of *Rome* herself.

That however let him the *French* King do what he pleased, yet all that ever he should or could do, should not make him abate the least jot or tittle of his just pretensions about the *Regale*, nor the franchises of Quarters: but that he was resolved to be Pope in *France*

and Sovereign in *Rome*, from which no Force ſhould ever make him depart or flinch back the leaſt degree, whatever Dangers he were expoſed unto: This great Conſtancy, My Lord, in the old Pontiff, hath not a little appalled the exorbitant Pride and Fury of this Court; however they have put the beſt Face they can upon it, and ſeem reſolved to break through all Oppoſition, and outbrave whatever ſhall be in their Way, and divert their Reſolution; and I am aſſured the *French* Embaſſador *Lavardin* at *Rome* hath already, purſuant to his Orders from hence, highly menaced the old Dad, who in a third Letter to the King has made anſwerable Reply, of which I am pretty confident I ſhall in my next tranſmit to your Lordſhip the Particulars, but in the mean time remain,

Paris, June 19. 1687. *N. S.*

My Lord,

Your Faithful Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXVIII.

The Contents of Pope Innocent *XI.'s third Letter to the* French *King, in anſwer to that of his; wherein he ſhews his Folly and Miſtake in his Pretentions and Demands, and threatens the Cenſure of the Church againſt him, and ſhews the Inconveniency and Danger of ſetting up a Patriarch in* France, *&c.*

My Lord,

I Wiſh your Lordſhip as much Satisfaction in the peruſal of this Letter, as I have in keeping my Promiſe made to you in my laſt about the Pope's third Letter; in getting Sight of the Minutes whereof, I have met with much greater Difficulty than I expected, or was uſual with me; I have already hinted Monſieur *Lavardin*'s Menaces made at *Rome* upon the ſubject matter of the former Letter; and therefore the Pope begins his with anſwering thoſe Menaces, that imported that the King ſhould affranchiſe *France* from the *Roman See*, nominate a ſeparate Patriarch there, and elect Biſhops of his own without having any Recourſe to the Biſhop of *Rome*, and in the mean while invade the Pope's Territories with his Arms, and force the Franchiſes for his Ambaſſador; and fiercely replying, That he is reſolved, as in Conſcience

bound to do, to transmit the Franchiſes and all other Rights of the Apoſtolick See to his Succeſſors as he found them.

That he would recognize or allow of no Biſhops of the King's nominating, till he had Satisfaction about the *Regale*; that if he would be ſo heady as to proceed to nominate a new Patriarch, it would make a greater combuſtion in his Kingdom than he was aware of, to which his Perſecution of the Proteſtants would not a little contribute which he ſhould find would be very unſeaſonable for him, and would in all likelihood raiſe all Chriſtendom againſt him, as well as his own Subjects; that thereby he would make a wide Gap to let in an Inundation of Hereſies, which he pretends to keep out, and would teach the People after they had once trampled on the Pope's Authority, to trample at laſt on that of the Biſhops and King's too, and even on their very Perſons, as they had done in *England*; and that when he had pulled down the mighty Dam of the Papal Power, and let that raging Sea in, it would be out of his Power to ſtop it where and when he would: wherefore he conjured him and his Clergy to conſider ſeriouſly, yea twice and thrice of that weighty Project, before they went to put it in Execution, leſt they might, when they found it too late, repent it, and in vain attempt to recal the ſame.

That he muſt not think to fright him with the Noiſe of an Invaſion; for that tho' he would neither arm himſelf nor the reſt of the Princes of *Italy* againſt him, as he might do, but oppoſe only Prayers and Tears, yet if he deſiſted not from his pretended *Regale* and Franchiſes, he would excommunicate *Lavardin* his

his Embaſſador, and interdict his Kingdom, and and ſet it in ſuch a Flame about his Ears, as ſhould make him glad to go tamely back again, and look after his own Home; that after all, ſhould he ſack and Plunder *Rome*, captivate his Perſon, and have all other Succeſſes he could imagine, it would be a very inglorious Expedition for *Lewis* the Great, the eldeſt Son of the Church, and ſuch a pretended Bigot for it, for to ravage its Territories and aſſault the ſupreme Paſtor of it with thoſe Arms with which he was bound to defend it; and but a ſmall Triumph to ſo great a Conqueror to over-power and martyriſe a poor, helpleſs and unarmed old Man, as he was, for whom ſome of his Predeceſſors would have been content to have become Martyrs themſelves; and therefore conjures him to think once more very ſeriouſly of it, and then to act as he pleaſed, but withal aſſures him, That neither his Menaces nor his Arms ſhall make him flinch an Hair's breadth from thoſe his laſt Reſolutions, wherein he was fully reſolved to perſiſt to the laſt Drop of his Blood. Thus, my Lord, you have the brave Reſolution of a Roman Pontiff, who, tho' the Title and Dignity of Chriſt's earthly Vicegerent be falſly aſcribed to him, yet undoubtedly he is poſſeſſed of a Soul above that of common Mortals, and whom I therefore honour and eſteem, as I have always done and ever ſhall your Lordſhip, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, June 28. 1687. *Your moſt humble Servant.*

LETTER XXIX.

Of the Tryal and Suſpenſion of the Biſhop of London, *by vertue of the Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſion.*

My Lord,

I Have once and again intimated to your Lordſhip ſome Methods that were propoſed to be proſecuted, in order to the ſetting up of the King's Diſpenſing Power, and among other things, to the beſt of my remembrance, taken notice of the Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſion, with the Reaſons urged to the King for making uſe of it; and now you have ſeen the Effects of it upon my Lord of *London*, whom ſome of them have ſaid, *They were reſoved to be revenged on, for doing his Duty in the Houſe of Lords, by moving after the Lords had voted an Addreſs of Thanks to the King for his Speech to that Seſſion after the death of the D. of Monmouth, in his own and his Brethren's Name, That the Houſe would take the King's Speech into conſideration and debate the ſame*; but this way was not then reſolved on, but ſeveral others projected, which yet they found impracticable; when the Commiſſion was agreed to be erected, they had even then an Eye to the Biſhop, tho' no plauſible Pretence for the Proſecution of him, and therefore the ſaid Commiſſion lay dormant for ſome Months, till ſuch time as they might ſee the Effects of another Project to be put in Practice, which

which was, That ſome Reglements made in the late King's Reign, in the Year 1662. importing, among other things, The Clergy in their Sermons ſhould not meddle with State Affairs, nor enter upon any Queſtion that concerned the Rights of the King's Subjects, nor to treat of ſome Points in Divinity which formerly had created great Troubles in the Kingdom, particularly thoſe of Predeſtination and Free-Will, nor yet to mixt Invective Reproaches, Railleries and ſcandalous Expreſſions with their Controverſies, ſhould be republiſhed under a very ſtrict Injunction of all Parties concerned to the obſervance of them; and the leaſt Tranſgreſſion in that kind to be puniſh'd with the utmoſt Severity; they did not queſtion in the mean while, but that in ſo tickliſh a time, there might be ſome one or other, eſpecially in the Dioceſs of *London*, whom this Bird-lime might catch; your Lordſhip knows how it fell out accordingly, in the Caſe of Doctor *Sharp*.

Tho' they were mighty jealous of the old Gentleman of *Canterbury*, that if he were nominated in the Commiſſion, and ſhould chance to act, which was the leaſt of their Thoughts he ſhould, he might rather thwart than promote their Deſigns, yet being pretty confident he would not concern himſelf with it, they adventured to put him in, not for his Authority but his Name-ſake only, for, conſidered they, ſhould we get the Biſhop of *London* once into the Toyl, he will have no room to plead to the Juriſdiction of the Court ſeeing the ſame was founded upon the concurrent, tho' in truth but nominal, Authority of his Metropolitan, to whom he owed Canonical Obedience; theſe things your Lordſhip may know much better

than I, but I cannot forbear giving you any Hints of the Court-Deſigns, which whether projected here or on your ſide, we have conſtant Intelligence of in our : : : : I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Aug. 20. 1687. N. S.

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble and devoted Servant.

LETTER XXX.

Of the Liberty of Conſcience, firſt granted in Scotland, *and then in* England, *by King* James *II.*

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip may call to mind what I have before written to you concerning Tolleration in Religion, as neceſſary to facilitate the King's Deſigns, and now you ſee it hath ſprouted up in *Scotland*, and the Buddings of it are viſible enough in *England*; that the Parliament of the former as well as the latter oppoſed the Diſpenſing Power is notoriouſly known, ſo that there was much leſs Hopes they would have concurred to the Indulgence, a Point as neceſſary to be gained every whit as the other; that the *Scotch* Nation were more modelled to the King's Hand than the *Engliſh*, the King himſelf well knew; as having a perſonal Share in it when

when high Commiſſioner in that Kingdom in his Brother's Reign, and the *French* and *Engliſh* Jeſuitical Faction knew this as well as he; and therefore I am aſſured both of them concurred to have the Indulgence given there firſt, and that alſo in ſo partial a manner in favour of thoſe of the King's Religion, that the reſt have hardly any Share therein; which manifeſts plainly the Deſign of the *Engliſh* Catholicks whatever ſpecious Pretence they may otherwiſe uſe, is to bring the People of *England* alſo under the ſame, nay a worſe Yoke of Servitude, and to have their own Religion predominant quickly, and in Time the only one in both Nations: And as for the third they are cock ſure of that already; but that of the *French* Emiſſaries is not ſo viſible and above Board; for they hope ſuch partial Proceedings muſt at laſt incenſe the People of both Kingdoms and that to ſo violent a degree, that the King muſt of neceſſity have recourſe to call in *French* Force to quell them: and then, my Lord, when they have once got ſure Footing, who can gueſs at their farther Aim; however, they have not with all their Intrigues been able to prevail with the King to uſe the ſame Partiality in *England*, who according to the Tranſmiſſion of their Intelligence hither ſeemed very much inclined to it, upon their urging the Tractableneſs of the *Scotch* Council in the Matter, and what a great Pattern they had ſet to them of *England*, whom they did not doubt but would abrogate the Laws made againſt *Roman* Catholicks, *&c.* in imitation of them; but a *Roman* Catholick Lord, whom I have formerly named to your Lord-

ſhip

ſhip to have interpoſed upon the like Occaſion, thwarted them therein; he deſerves well of his Country in ſome reſpects, and I do not queſtion but your Honour is of that mind; and ſo ſhall I be, till I ſee more than I do now to incline me to the contrary, who am,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's moſt humble and obedient Servant.

Paris, Sept. 5. 168⅓, *N. S.*

LETTER XXXI.

Of the French *Projects to put King* James *upon deſperate Meaſures in* Ireland; *and their Ends therein.*

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip may remember how I have formerly given you the ſtate of the *Iriſh* Soldiers in the Service of *France*, during the late King's Reign, and what Encouragement they have had here from time to time, above any of the reſt of the *Britiſh* Nations; and the large Promiſes that were now and then made, That they ſhould be reinſtated in their ancient Poſſeſſions in their native Country. But this King hath no ſooner aſcended the *Engliſh* Throne, but that they have as readily return'd into *England* and *Ireland*, as they were willing before, even contrary to their Allegiance, to remain in the *French* Service; the Reaſon whereof your Lordſhip muſt needs know, they having al-

already devoured with their Eyes the moſt valuable Preferments in *England* and *Ireland* (in the later whereof they have got a Lieutenant of their own ſtamp) and more than all the Lands which they have been debarr'd from by the Act of *Settlement*; having (as I can aſſure your Lordſhip) a previous Promiſe from this Court, That the King will uſe all imaginable endeavours to get his Brother of *England* to conſent to aboliſh it; and which has put the *Iriſh* ſo hotly upon renewing their Importunities to the King againſt the ſaid Act, that he hath in a manner agreed to thoſe meaſures that are purſuant thereunto; in which motions the *Iriſh* were order'd to be effectually ſeconded by the Emiſſaries of this Court, who at the ſame time have encourag'd the *Iriſh* privately with a Promiſe; That if after all, the King would not give his full Conſent, or durſt not do them Right, their Maſter was reſolv'd to do it; provided they would chuſe him for their Protector, which they might lawfully do, being at beſt but a conquer'd Nation, againſt their Conquerors, for the recovery not only of their Native Rights in that Land, but likewiſe of thoſe afreſh confirm'd to them by the Treaty, (whether pretended or real, I will not determine upon that Head) with the late K. *Charles* II, of which the *French King* was Guarrantee, and therefore juſtly might and ought to be call'd in as a Vindicator. And this, my Lord, is confeſs'd here, That they had form'd ſo ſtrong a Party among the *Iriſh*, that if the King had not in ſome meaſure comply'd, or does not for the future, but fail'd their Hopes by keeping it, as the Intereſt of his Kingdom, one ſhould think, naturally leads him, to that ſide of the Ballance againſt

France,

France, and maintaining the *Act of Settlement*, they had bid fair, as I have heard it more than whiſper'd here, for a general Revolt of the *Iriſh* Natives in their favour, whom they had provided to ſuccour on a ſudden, without declaring War, or the leaſt Intimation beforehand of their Deſigns, to the *King*. But now having prevail'd with him to make ſuch Advances as he has begun againſt the ſaid famous Act, which they have looked upon, as it were the *Band of Peace*, not only to *Ireland*, but even to the Three Nations, and perhaps they are right enough in their Judgment; they believe they have hereby put him on a Point that will quickly bring him into Diſtreſs enough to need them; and, conſequently, to the neceſſity of taking his future meaſures from them, expecting henceforward a more implicite Complyance than ever. Thus, my Lord, have they laid their Foundation, the Succeſs and Event, Time muſt determine: but from ſuch undermining Politicians, *Good Lord, deliver* England, *&c.* for the Dangers which threaten both its Religion and Civil Liberty are very great, tho', I hope, not inevitable. Pardon the freedom in theſe Particulars of him who is, and ever ſhall remain, ready to pleaſe your Lordſhip to the utmoſt of my power, and cannot but ſubſcribe himſelf,

My Lord,

Paris, Mar. 26. 1687.

Your Honour's moſt humble and moſt obedient Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXXII.

Of K. James's *Cloſetting ſeveral Perſons; and the Arguments he was advis'd to uſe to them to conſent to the Abrogating of the Penal Laws and Teſt.*

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip, for ought I know, may know much better than I can inform you, what Arguments the King has us'd to ſuch as have been lately Cloſetted by him; and if *Fame* be not a -------, you are one of that number; for a Liſt of them is not yet come into our -------; but I can tranſmit into your Hands what has been concerted here in the nature of Inſtructions to the *French* Emiſſaries at *White-Hall* hereupon; they were to repreſent to the King, and he to the cloſetted Gentlemen, That there were *four Kings* who had endeavour'd to bring the Kingdom of *England* into an Uniformity in Religion, that ſo the People might live in Amity one with another; and notwithſtanding all the Expedients, tho' ſeemingly very likely to take effect and ſucceed according to wiſh, which wiſe Politicians had ſuggeſted from time to time; yet they had hitherto proved abortive, and their Endeavours had been in vain: That therefore the only way left for to ſettle Tranquillity in a State, ſo as to be no more to be diſturb'd about Religion, was to grant every one the freedom fully to enjoy

joy his own: That ſuch an Indulgence of all Religions in *Holland* was as much a cauſe of the flouriſhing of that State in Wealth and Greatneſs, and more than any other that could be aſſign'd; and to ſay that ſuch a Liberty, tho' it might be compatible enough with a Republick, was not yet with Monarchical Governments, was a groſs Miſtake; and Experience ſhew'd it to be quite otherwiſe both in the *Turkiſh* Empire, Kingdom of *Perſia*, and elſewhere, where the *Greek* and *Armenian* Chriſtians have been tolerated in their Religion for many Ages, and yet have been ſo far from being mutinous, or Diſturbers of the reſpective States they have liv'd under, that they are great Supporters of them, eſpecially the *Armenians*, who are almoſt the only Merchants they have in that mighty and extenſive Kingdom of *Perſia*: That the Perſecutions which our *Nonconformiſts* in *England* have from time to time been under, had been the cauſe of the flight of many good Subjects beyond the Seas, of whom our neighbouring Nations drew great and ſolid Advantages; and that thoſe who have ſtaid at home have, by reaſon of the Preſſures they have labour'd under, prov'd uneaſie, and turn'd Malecontents; and if they have not had Virtue and Conſtancy enough patiently to ſuffer under their Misfortunes, they were alwaies ready to favour Revolts and enter into Factions, whereof they had ſeen fatal effects in the late Reigns, from which no *King* could be able to ſecure his Perſon and his Subjects, but that uneaſie and turbulent Spirits would be alwaies ready, under Pretence of Religion, which they abuſed, to diſturb and molett them. Which Reaſons the *King* was to back cloſely with large Promiſes of Favour, and

if

if he found any obſtinate, to mix his Reaſons and Promiſes with ſome Intimations of his Diſpleaſure; and, upon an abſolute Refuſal, to proceed to diveſt ſome of their Places under him. and to alledge for a Reaſon of his ſo doing, That it was not reaſonable that they who refuſed their Services ſhould enjoy his Favours; and that if hereupon any ſhould be ſo audacious as to tell him, That this Practice of his was irregular and contrary to the Freedom which the Laws of the Land allow'd to them, eſpecially as Members of Parliament, whoſe Suffrages ought to be ſpontaneous and free, they were to be put in mind, that they had forgot the Violences uſed by King *Henry* VIII, upon the like occaſions, and the methods ſo many other *Kings* had put in practiſe, to engage their Parliaments to ſubſcribe to their Wills: that they might conſider that two of the moſt famous Parliaments that ever were in the Kingdom of *England* had authoriz'd this Conduct, in the Reign of *Edward* III, and King *Richard* II, when ſome of the Pope of *Rome*'s *Bulls* were conteſted, as being looked upon too much to entrench on the *King*'s Prerogative; that the Parliament prayed King *Edward*, and obliged *Richard*, almoſt againſt his Will, to give their Conſent, by particular Conferences with the Members, to promiſe to uſe the utmoſt of their Power to maintain the *King*'s Prerogative, and the Rights of the Crown, againſt that See, *&c.* But if that after all, the *King* ſhould find, that neither Arguments, Promiſes, Threats, nor Examples would do, he was adviſ'd to proceed in his Brother's Steps by *Quo Warranto*, and ſo to concert meaſures with thoſe that preſided over Elections for the regulating of Corporations where-

whereon they depended, tho' this was by far the more tedious way, but yet there was one way to haſten it: for whereas new Charters, in his Brother's time granted in lieu of the old ones, were many of them retarded, becauſe the Court-Officers inſiſted upon too much Mony; the *King* now might give poſitive Directions to ſuch perſons to diſpatch them without ſuch Conſiderations, with a Promiſe to gratifie them another way; and if he found that would not do, then he was to caſhier ſuch Officers, and put others in their room who would engage to do the buſineſs to effect. I am afraid, my Lord, I have wearied you with an impertinent Letter; and therefore if an abrupt concluſion will any way mend the matter, I remain,

My Lord,

Paris. Nov. 19. 1687. *N. S.*

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble Servant.

LETTER XXXIII

Of my Lord Caſtlemain's *being ſent Ambaſſador to* Rome *by* K. James; *and of his receiving the Pope's* Nuncio *in* England.

My Lord,

THAT my Lord of *Caſtlemain* was ſent Ambaſſador to *Rome*, has been tranſacted wholly on your ſide of the Water; for beſides that,

that, this Court were then, and are ſtill, at variance with the Papal See: There is not the leaſt Inſtruction tranſmitted from hence (as far as I can find) either to *England* or *Rome* concerning that matter; but perhaps he might receive them *in tranſitu*, and by word of mouth, only from M. *L.* who failed not to ſee him: But as for Count *Dada*, the *Apoſtolick Nuncio*, as they call him, they have ſhewed ſome Concern here that he ſhould have an honourable Reception in *England*, and have order'd it ſo as to get our *King* to diſpenſe with that Ceremony which *Henry* VIII, and even his Daughter Queen *Mary*, inſiſted upon, that he ſhould wait like a Mumper at a *French* Port till he had Leave granted him to enter into *England*; And that the *Engliſh* Nation, who had not ſeen ſuch a Viſion for near an Age and a half, might not be overterrified with it, the *French* Agents were inſtructed to ſuggeſt unto thoſe Lords and others whom they ſhould think moſt ſuſceptible of their Sophiſtry; That ſince the *King*, as a *Roman-Catholick* Prince, could do no leſs than ſend an Ambaſſador to *Rome* to ſalute the Pope, tho' it were but for form-ſake, and that his ſaid Ambaſſador had had ſuch an extraordinary Reception, and great Civilities ſhewed him there; it were but very equitable the *King*, in his turn, ſhould ſhew the like to his *Nuncio*, who was a Layman, and in that quality came to congratulate his acceſſion to the Throne, from his Maſter; not ſo much as he ſate in St. *Peter*'s Chair, as he was a Temporal Prince, to whoſe Miniſters, as ſuch, the Law of Nations required a juſt Deference ſhould be paid: That to ſend a ſolemn Embaſſy to the *Great Turk*, who was a *Mahumetan*, and a ſworn Enemy to all

Chriſtians, however denominated, was never ſo much as boggled at by any *English-man* or other Chriſtian Nation whatſoever, either in this or any preceding Age: That the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor of *Morocco* had been lately received in *England* moſt honourably, and yet their Maſter both a *Mahumetan* and a *Barbarian* Prince, in whoſe Countries *Chriſtians* were treated more like Brute-Beaſts than Men; and ſhould they diſdain to concur with their Prince, to receive with ſome Ceremony, and if not by way of a publick and pompous Entry, yet privately in his Palace, a Miniſter from him to whoſe Civilities many of our *English* Nobility and Gentry were highly obliged in their Travels to *Rome* and *Italy?* But what Succeſs they have had in this petty Agency, your Lordſhip can tell much better than I at this diſtance: but the Duke of *Somerſet* is as highly exclaimed againſt here, for refuſing to perform the Ceremony of introducing the *Nuncio*, as the Duke of *Grafton* is applauded for doing of it, who, I hope for all that, will never have the Thanks of a Houſe of Commons for it. I am,

My Lord,

Your very obedient and

humble Servant.

Paris, Novr 27. 1687. *N. S.*

LET-

LETTER XXXIV.

The French *Politicks to embroyl* England.

My Lord,

THE *French* Emiſſaries having gain'd ſeveral Points, and particularly that mentioned in my laſt, they have lately turn'd their Batteries another way: They have been moſt of this while endeavouring to compaſs their Ends, by putting the *King*, and thoſe who have moſt influence over him, upon deſperate courſes, whereof the moſt material I have, as Occaſion has ſerved, noted to your Lordſhip. It will hardly be believed, that they would offer to propoſe any Maxims to the Legal Party in *England*, that are really for their advantage; Did not their Inſtructions make it appear to be ſo, tho they have propoſed far different Ends therein? I do not queſtion but your Lordſhip has obſerved the Uneaſineſs of the Nation under the preſent Proceedings of the King and Court-party; but tho they have juſt cauſe of ſuſpicion, I muſt aſſure your Lordſhip the ſame has been and may ſtill be aggravated by the Agents of this Court, who teach them to infuſe into the People, That the *Proteſtant Religion* is in great danger; That the reduction of the *Roman-Catholicks* to the Bounds eſtabliſh'd by the Law of the Land is highly neceſſary, and without the latter be effected, it will be impoſſible for the former long to ſubſiſt; That it was viſible the Privileges of

Parliament were infringed more than in any time of their Anceſtors: That Arbitrary Power was already acted, and without timely prevention would get ſuch rooting, that all the power of *England* could not dethrone it; That there was not ſcarce one made a Nobleman ſince the *King*s acceſſion to the Throne in the Three Kingdoms, but ſuch as were *Papiſts*; and, That all Honours and Offices of Profit, either in Court or Camp, were ſhared amongſt ſuch, whilſt the *Proteſtants* lay neglected as uſeleſs perſons, and ſuch as were deem'd to have no Share nor Lot in the Government; That the perſon of the King, it's true, was ſacred, but at the ſame time it was not only juſtifiable, but an incumbent Duty upon them, as *Engliſhmen*, as they would anſwer it to God and their Country, timouſly to think of the Danger, and to apply the Remedy; for without the removal of ſuch Miniſters as then managed the State, it would be in vain to expect their Grievances could be redreſſed, and their Religion and Liberties ſecured; and if they find themſelves harken'd to, and their Propoſitions approved, they have further Inſtructions to hint an Aſſociation for one Expedient, *&c.* God Almighty knows what will become of poor *England* amidſt ſo many Deſigns upon her Religion and Liberty, both by foreign and domeſtick Enemies, who continually prey upon her Vitals. I can but pray for her, as I do and always ſhall for your Lordſhip, who am,

My Lord,
Your moſt devoted Servant.

Paris Dec. 13. 1687.

LET-

LETTER XXXV.

King James (*tho' already much diſpoſed*) *put more out of Conceit with the Prince of* Orange, *who is repreſented by the* French *Agents very illy to him.*

My Lord,

I Have in my laſt ſuggeſted to you ſome of thoſe Arguments the Emiſſaries of this Court have and are to uſe to the *Church of England-men*, as they find occaſion and a diſpoſition to receive them, for to put them upon violent courſes, to their own and Nation's deſtruction: But at the ſame time they have entertained an incurable Jealouſie of the Prince of *Orange*, and conſtrue the moſt juſt and generous Actions of a Prince who was always ſo, in the worſt ſenſe imaginable, and, as ſuch, repreſent them to the King, whom they cunningly whiſtle in the Ear, ſaying; That he could not but know there were ſome perſons in the Nation who were not pleaſed with his way of proceeding, and therefore would be ſure to take all Opportunities to oppoſe him: That indeed now *Monmouth* was cut off, they had no plauſible Head to retire unto: That for the Prince of *Orange*, tho' he had apparently omitted nothing ſince His Majeſty's advancement to the Throne for the maintaining of a fair correſpondence with him, and been very forward to pay all the De-

veirs due from a *Son* to a Father-in-law, affecting much Zeal for his Intereſt, and acting with his Miniſters of State as if himſelf were the Prime of them: Yet they deſire him to conſider the thoughtful and deſigning Nature of the Prince, who, to be ſure, was not wanting to obſerve every pace made by the *Engliſh*, and to diſpoſe of his own Affairs and People accordingly: That His Majeſty could not but remember the Applications made to him formerly, in his Brother's Reign, from *England*, when he was but Nephew to the King and himſelf; but now, that he was advanced by his Marriage to a much nigher Degree to the Crown, could it be thought that he had leſs Thoughts concerning it, or leſs Application made unto him on that behalf, eſpecially in ſo tickliſh a time? That ſome perſons of note's going over lately into *Holland*, was no ſign he was unconcern'd at the *Engliſh* Affairs, or unapplied to, but muſt needs give Umbrage, and more than a Suſpicion that he had already a ſtrong Party within the Kingdom; and that indeed his Conduct without was next to a demonſtration of it, ſince he had done all that ever he could to hinder His Majeſty from all the Succours he could expect from abroad, in caſe of any domeſtick Troubles; for tho' His Majeſty was ſure of *France*, and had made a general Alliance with *Spain*, and might then be apt to believe that the Houſe of *Auſtria* would not oppoſe him, eſpecially when the *Catholick Religion* was the Diſpute; yet it was manifeſt the Prince had bid fair for the depriving him of both thoſe Supports, firſt by entering himſelf, and then by cauſing the *United Provinces* to enter into the League at

*Auſbur*g

Ausburg againſt *France*, to the end he might draw down upon that Monarchy the united Forces of the Confederates, in caſe the *French* King ſhould offer to attack the States Territories, while he might make uſe of their Power both by Sea and Land, to carry on his Deſigns againſt His Majeſty and his Kingdoms: And then, that he had render'd the Houſe of *Auſtria* very ſuſpicious of His Majeſty, as being a Prince contrary to their Deſigns, one in Intereſts, and cloſely engag'd with *France* in a ſecret Treaty, which would appear in due time. I can aſſure your Lordſhip, that by the Returns which have been made hither, the King has been but too ſuſceptible of theſe Calumnies againſt the Prince, and, I fear, to his prejudice, tho' I heartily wiſh it otherwiſe, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 11. 1688.

Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble and Obedient Servant.

LETTER XXXVI.

Of the Spaniards *attempting to bring King* James *over to their Intereſt, but failed.*

My Lord,

HOwever the Emiſſaries of this Court have traduced the Noble Prince of *Orange* to the King, yet they have in ſome ſort given the Lye to themſelves, when notwithſtanding all their Rhodomantade, about the Prince's engaging the Houſe of *Auſtria* againſt his Majeſty, they have been ſo alarmed at the Propoſals made to him by the *Spaniards*, of a ſtricter Allyance, which they knew, if entred into, muſt invalidate that made with them; the Emperor and King of *Spain* being ſuſpicious of the Allyance with *France*, had entred into a Confederacy with the Princes of *Germany* at *Ausburg*, as I have hinted in my laſt; and that they might make their Party as ſtrong as they could, and having at the ſame time no clear demonſtration of our King's private Leaguing with *France*, they reſolved to leave nothing uneſſayed, either to know that it was really ſo, or, if not, to engage the King in their Intereſt; the Marqueſs *de Gaſtanaga*, Govenour of *Flanders*, and the *Spaniſh* Embaſſador *Don Pedro de Ronquillo* were the Perſons employed by that illuſtrious Houſe in that Affair; it's well known here that the latter has omitted nothing that could be done to bring the King over, urging

urging to him the Honour and Intereſt of ſuch an Allyance; that it was the only Opportunity he had left to recover the good Opinion of his Subjects, who, he muſt needs know himſelf, were ſomewhat alienated in their Affections from him, with a great deal more to the ſame purpoſe; and he did at laſt proceed ſo far, well knowing his blind---------as to engage, if his Majeſty would enter into and be cordial in ſuch an Allyance, to order it ſo that his Parliament ſhould acquieſce with whatever he was then attempting to get eſtabliſhed in reſpect of Religion, which he could never effect by the Aſſiſtance and Agency of *France*, their harſh Procedure againſt the Reformed, there being too green and freſh in Memory to be ſo ſoon forgotten by the *Engliſh*, who had beſides a natural Averſion to that Nation and their Politicks; But, my Lord, all that *Don Ronquillo* has done, was communicated to the *French* Emiſſaries, who preſently took the Scent, and being not willing to give the King ſpace to demur upon the Matter, loſt no Time in remonſtrating to him; *That they who had told him, That he ought to take that Opportunity to gain his Subjects, by entring into the League of* Ausburg, *had not reflected upon the inconſequence that followed upon ſuch a Procedure; That that League now agitated was but the conſequence of another made at* Magdenburg *by the Proteſtants, in favour of the* Hugonots; *and that it were againſt all good Reaſon and Senſe, that a Prince who did his utmoſt to procure a Liberty to* Roman *Catholicks in* England, *ſhould concur to re-eſtabliſh the moſt rigid of Proteſtants in* France; *beſides, it would argue no good Policy for him to forſake a ſolid Friend, ſuch as the* French *King was, to joyn himſelf*

himſelf to ſuch Princes, who would no longer be uſeful to him, than while they had need of him; ſince the Proteſtants had already begun to overreach their Piety, ſo far as to draw them into Leagues formed againſt a Catholick Prince, in favour of the Calviniſts, *whom he had driven out of his Dominions*; wherefore the King made anſwer to *Don Ronquillo* in general Terms; *That as he would faithfully preſerve the Allyance made between him and his Maſter, ſo the ſame Fidelity obliged him not to violate that Friendſhip which was between him and the Moſt Chriſtian King, his Kinſman, who was willing to live at Peace with his Neighbours, and maintain the ſame as far as he could between them.* Thus, my Lord, this hopeful Overture was blaſted, the Conſequence whereof I refer to him who knows all things, and to whoſe Protection I commend your Lordſhip, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Mar. 16. 1688 *N. S.*

Your very obliged Servant to command.

LET-

LETTER XXXVII.

Arguments uſed to King James *by the Lord Marqueſs of* Powis, *Pope's Nuntio*, &c. *againſt a War with* Holland.

My Lord,

THat the King, purſuant to his late Allyances with this Crown, deſigns a War, in conjunction with the *French* Arms, againſt *Holland*, is no longer a Secret here, whatever it may be in *England*; eſpecially ſince *Don Ronquillo*'s Artifices to gain him over to the *Auſtrian* Intereſt, as I mentioned to your Lordſhip in my my laſt, have failed, tho' he were briskly ſeconded therein by the Lord Marqueſs of *Powis*, the Pope's Nuntio, and Emperor's Miniſter, whoſe Reaſons or rather Remonſtrances to the King upon that Head, for want of better Intelligence, I ſhall at preſent take notice of to your Lordſhip, as entred in our Minutes, and which indeed were ſuch that 'tis a wonder he ſhould withſtand them, *ſed quem Deus*——

1. They preſt it very home upon him, That ſuch a War againſt the States of *Holland* could not be attempted with any apparent Advantage to his Majeſty, without a junction with the *French* Power, which yet in all human Probability would never enable him to conquer thoſe Provinces, ſince both the Crown of *Spain* and the Emperor, nay the Empire would be obliged to protect them; to war with whom, eſpecially with

with *Spain*, whoſe Trade, as he well knew was moſt beneficial to *England* of any in the World, would be attended with ſuch manifeſt Diſadvantage, as all the Power of *France*, were that King a faithful Ally, would never be able to make the Nation amends for; and that ſuppoſing he ſhould be able to conquer the ſaid Republick, by the Aſſiſtance of the *French* Arms, yet to conquer it by *French* Force would neceſſarily but make himſelf, as well as that Nation a Tributary and Underling of *France*.

2. That in all likelihood a War with *Holland*, and againſt the Houſe of *Auſtria*, would diſguſt his Subjects, and ſet them all againſt him, yea and perhaps move ſome hot Spirits to form Deſigns to diſpoſſeſs him of his Throne; or at leaſt, ſo far to make Oppoſition as to knock on the Head all his fine Projects for the Advancement of his own Religion in *England*, and engaging of his very Catholick Subjects againſt him.

3. That if his Majeſty intended the re-eſtabliſhment of the Catholick Faith in *England*, it was to be conſidered, that the ſame was a Work of Time, and required great Moderation, but that they were ſure the hot and furious Methods of *France* and the Jeſuits would never effect it.

4. That to them, for the effectual bringing about of the ſaid Work, there ſeemed a kind of neceſſity, that he ſhould ſtay till the Diſcords between the Catholick Princes were ſo far appeaſed as to be without Danger of breaking out in a long Time, for that all their Concurrence would be found to be little enough to enable him to accompliſh his Ends therein.

5. That

5. That if he ſhould chuſe rather to enter into a ſtrict Allyance with the Houſe of *Auſtria* againſt the *French*, he would thereby render himſelf ſecure of his People's Hearts and Affections, of the *Dutch* Naval Force to ſtrengthen him at Sea, as occaſion required; and of all the other Allies Forces, to divert the *French* Armies by Land: And that if he ſhould loſe upon that account, as 'twas likely, any Remittances from *France*, they aſſured him the Pope would allow him a much better Penſion to countervail it; and that being engaged againſt *France*, his People would be ſo intent againſt the *French*, and upon that War, ſo agreeable to their Inclination, that they would not be ſo very jealous of, and ſo prying into the Advances he ſhould make in the Change of Religion at Home; and that if by that means, than which nothing could be thought on more feaſible, he could not ſettle that Religion, he might at leaſt ſecure it, and make Matters eaſie to thoſe of his own Perſwaſion.

6. That if his Majeſty perſiſted to make War againſt *Holland*, which would inevitably draw on one with the Houſe of *Auſtria*, if his Arms did not prevail ſo far as to come to an entire Conqueſt, he was certainly ruined, and all the Catholicks in the three Kingdoms along with him, without reſource, and would periſh unpitied, and without any Hopes or poſſibility of Succour from any Catholick Princes but the *French* King alone; and that if on the contrary, as it was the moſt unlikely thing in the World, he ſhould prevail to a Conqueſt over *Holland*, and his own Country, that yet thereby he ſhould, under the colour of an imaginary eſtabliſhment of the Catholick Religion in the *Britiſh*

Britiſh Kingdoms, but ſettle an irreligious Tyrant over all Chriſtendom, worſe to the Catholick Religion and Chriſtianity in general than any Heretick in the World, nay than the very *Turk* himſelf, and who would inſolently trample upon the Pope's as well as his Fellow Princes Power, and ſet up a new Empire and a new Religion of a third ſort neither Catholick nor Proteſtant, but ſuch as ſuited with his own ambitious Deſigns; as the Steps he had already made that way did ſufficiently declare: And ſo inſtead of reſettling the *Roman* Catholick Religion where it had loſt Ground, and in the Soil of *Great Britain*, which would prove but a Quick-Sand to it, he would deſtroy it all over *Europe*, where it was now eſtabliſhed *in terra Firma*, &c.

Ile leave it to the Deciſion of your Lordſhip's Judgment, whether theſe or the *French* Remonſtrances carried moſt of Reaſon, Probability and Truth in them, as I ever ſhall all that comes from,

My Lord,

Paris, Apr. 30. 1688.

Your Honours moſt humble and obedient Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXXVIII.

Of the Differences continued between the Pope and the French *King, and of King* James *ſending an Embaſſador to* Rome, *to reconcile them.*

My Lord,

I Have already tranſmitted to your Lordſhip the Contents of his Holineſs's Letters to the *French* King, about the *Regale* and Franchiſes; but there ſeems now to be a Diſpoſition in theſe two high ſtomach'd Princes to come to an accommodation, and the Conjuncture of Time lies ſo to the Heart of this Court, that I am apt to believe they will precipitate an Agreement; however, becauſe their forwardneſs therein might be diſguiſed as much as *French* Policy could effect, they have by their Agents inſinuated to our King; That an Embaſſy to *Rome* from him about accommodating of the foreſaid Differences muſt be very grateful to his Holineſs, who paid more deference to his Majeſty, and would further regard his Mediation than any Prince in *Chriſtendom*; and that tho' the *French* Court ſtood very ſtiff upon their Rights, yet it was not to be doubted, but as they had ſo high a Valuation for his Friendſhip at all Times and Occaſions, ſo he might be confident that in ſo critical a Juncture of Time, they would not be ſo purblind as not to ſee wherein their true Intereſt conſiſted; It was

no

no ſooner, my Lord, propoſed to the King, but accepted by him, and my Lord *Howard* is already arrived in this Kingdom, in his Way to *Italy*, as the King's Embaſſador extraordinary on this Errand; but notwithſtanding this Court has ſo far prevailed by their Artifices in *England* to procure the Kings Mediation, yet an Accident, if it may be called ſo, has lately happened at *Rome*, which may perhaps blaſt all the blooming Hopes entertained from this mighty Negotiation. For Monſieur *Lavardin*, Embaſſador from this King at *Rome*, receiving Information that ſome of the Pope's Marſhals were got within his Quarters, he ordered his Men to ſeize them, and commit them to ſafe Cuſtody; the Cardinal *de Eſtree* has endeavoured to alleviate the matter, and mollifie his Holineſs Reſentments, ſaying; *That certain Perſons, who were no great Friends to* France, *had ſet them at Work, with a deſign to irritate Matters yet further between the two Courts; that he might be pleaſed to conſider, that in the Poſture Affairs then ſtood*, that is, after his Holineſs had accepted the Mediation of the King of *England*, it would look ill to admit any Innovation; but the Cardinal was asked, *Whether the King of* France *was Sovereign in the City of* Rome? *And ſuppoſing he had been really ſo, was there any Juſtice to arreſt People as they paſſed along the Streets, that had a Deſign to make no manner of Attempts upon any? That it was never yet known in any Country, or heard of in the World of any Law that condemned a Man upon a bare Suſpicion; but ſuppoſing that were true, as it was not, yet it was moſt certain that the Puniſhment was reſerved to the Sovereign and not to an Embaſſador; who whatever Latitude*

he

he would have allowed to his Authority, could not pretend to any more than to be independent in his own Perſon; that as for his Domeſticks, if they pretended to the ſame Exemption with himſelf, it was no farther allowable than they demeaned themſelves Regularly, as they ought to do; for if they did otherwiſe, they were ſubject to the ordinary Juriſdiction of the Place they were in; That there were a Thouſand Examples for it, though there had been ſome Embaſſadors who had endeavoured to extend the Privilege of their Domeſticks ſo far, as to maintain that they ought to be affranchiſed. That this pretended right of Sovereignty by Embaſſadors was ſo far from beng true, that they had not as much as Power to puniſh their own Servants, for there could not be any one Example produced that any Embaſſador has intruded ſo far as to condemn any Perſon whatſoever to Death, tho' there have been many who have juſtly merited ſuch Puniſhment; That it was true, they had ſometimes reclaimed them when fallen into the Hands of ordinary Juſtice, but that at the ſame time it had always depended upon that of the Sovereign to concede that Favour to them, or refuſe them according as they were more or leſs juſt. Theſe things being granted, which could not be otherwiſe, for they carried their own Light with them, how could it be juſtified that a bare Embaſſador ſhould dare to arreſt not only his own Servants, but the Officers of a Sovereign Prince, and that even in his Capital City, and to heighten the Extravagance of

ſuch an Action, even in the very Sight of him.

Thus, my Lord, has the Old Gentleman reſented the Injury, and I am afraid our King will have but little Joy of his Embaſſy, and in this Particular come ſhort of his Grandfather's Motto of *Beati Pacifici*; however, his Zeal here for the Good of the *Roman* Catholick Church is highly applauded, but whether it be a Zeal without Knowledge, Ile leave to your Lordſhip to determine, and think my ſelf happy in any Opportunity to ſerve you, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, July 2. 1688. S.N.

Your very humble Servant

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

Of the Seven Biſhops being committed to the Tower *of* London; *and the* French *Intrigues to embroyl that matter.*

My Lord,

THE Commitment of the Biſhops to the *Tower*, and the Birth of the Prince of *Wales*, are things ſo agreeable to the *Guſto* of this Court, that they are overjoy'd at it, about the former of which this Court has been very buſie: I will not poſitively ſay the *Presbyterians* had the firſt hand in it, tho' they have taken care to enter it into our Minutes ſo; and that they being willing to make ſome advantage of the Conteſts of the Court, got it ſuggeſted to the King by the means of the *Romaniſts*, That in order to engage the Parliament to eſtabliſh *Liberty of Conſcience*, it was neceſſary the Biſhops ſhould be order'd to injoyn the reading the King's Declaration in their reſpective Dioceſſes: That the matter could not be ſcrupled by them, ſince the publication of the King's Orders had been at all times an Uſage in *England*, as well as in other Countries. But however this matter was firſt ſtarted, my Lord, I will not take upon me to determine, but it was carried on by ſtrange Inſtruments; for as ſoon as ever the Biſhops had refuſed to read the Declaration, and addreſt themſelves to the King upon that account,

with their Reaſons for noncomplyance; the Jeſuits about him, egged briskly on by ſuch as are entirely at this Court's Devotion, repreſented to him the great Affront offered to his Authority and the Regal Dignity itſelf by ſuch a Refuſal; and how if he ſuffered the ſame to go impunedly, it might open a Gap for it to be trampled upon without reſerve, and who could tell where it would terminate? That ſince he had already in all other points carried the Rights of Soveraignty to a great height, ſurely it was not now time to diſſemble and wink at an Adventure that put ſuch narrow Bounds to his Regal Authority: That there was therefore an abſolute neceſſity to call them to a ſevere account for ſuch an audacious Act; That they might be tryed by vertue of the Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſion, and with as much Juſtice every whit ſuſpended as the Bp of *London* was; and what would be a mighty Advantageous Conſequent thereon, was, that the Privation of the Epiſcopal Authority would advance the Regal Authority to ſuch a pitch, as to be held in veneration by all the People. You know, my Lord, the Succeſs theſe Remonſtrances have had, but the variation of the Biſhops Tryal is diſavowed by this Court, and the cauſe of their being brought into *Weſtminſter-Hall* attributed to the Chancellor's ſwaying the King, and for which ſome have gnaſhed their Teeth at him. Upon the Acquitment of the Biſhops, the *Engliſh* Jeſuits were horribly ſpighted; and the *French* Emiſſaries laughed in their Sleeves; and that they might embroyl the Nation more, had Orders to inſinuate into any whom they thought fit for their purpoſe, That the Regal Authority had that Property in it, that it oftentimes ſubſiſted more

more in Imagination than Effect: That if the People did but once know their own Strength, they would find it an eaſie matter to ſhake off the Yoke, which certain Puiſſances impoſed upon them, and with a great deal more, but in general Terms to the ſame purpoſe, with which I ſhall not at preſent trouble your Lordſhip; But they have at the ſame time ſpirited up the Jeſuitical Court-Faction to importune the King, without any Intermiſſion to review the Biſhop's Cauſe, and bring them on to another Tryal; alledging to him, That ſuch a Failure would undoubtedly add a Triumph to the People, whereof they had already given but too clear Signs, and conſiderably augment the audaciouſneſs of his Enemies, who were more in number than he could imagine; and that in ſhort the only way to put both the one and the other to a profound Silence, was by not flinching from that Reſoluteneſs and Conſtancy which he had made to appear ſince the beginning of his Reign, for if he once began to ſlag therein, it would be quickly ſeen, he would proportionably ſink in Reputation; That therefore great Care ſhould be taken to retrieve this again, ſince, without that were done, he muſt neceſſarily fall into a greater Contempt with his People than he was aware of, and from whence many Inconveniences would ariſe, which ſome of them could be as little foreſeen as it would be hard to prevent them; That therefore, as the Caſe ſtood, it were much more adviſeable for him to run the Riſque of another Tryal, wherein if he ſucceeded, his Sovereign Authority would be not only maintained and kept entire, but the greateſt Opportunity put into his Hands to extend the

Bounds of it as far as he pleaſed; but if it ſhould happen otherwiſe, and that the Biſhops ſhould be acquitted a ſecond Time (which as they deſigned to concert Matters) was not very likely; the Caſe would then be but the ſame, and no other than now, and as much to be feared from the one as from the other; but, it ſeems, the King was ſo diſpirited with the ill Succeſs of the firſt Trial that they found him entirely averſe to venture on another; and therefore being not able to divert him from his Reſolution of giving over that Game as loſt, they made it their Buſineſs to give out; That the King was not minded the Biſhops ſhould have been caſt, that he had therefore given way that ſuch a Jury ſhould be returned, and their Cauſe to be ſolicited by all their Friends, as was a clear Demonſtration that he had uſed all theſe Methods to deliver them from the Difficulties wherein they had plunged themſelves, with this Deſign and Hopes, that the Senſe of his Goodneſs might reclaim them back to their Duty, and that for the future they might ſet a Pattern to others not to ſwerve therefrom; but I do not find by the Returns made hither of theſe Expedients that they have met with any tolerable Succeſs; your Lordſhip may know much better than I, how this Affair is reliſhed in the whole, and what is likely to be the Conſequence, and ſo I le leave it to your Determination, and remain,

My Lord,

Paris, Aug. 8. 1688. *N.S.*

Your Lordships moſt humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER XI.

Of the Prince of Wales's *Birth, with the Senſe of the* French *Court upon it.*

My Lord,

I have upon another occaſion hinted to your Lordſhip what Appearance of Joy there was at this Court for the Birth of the *Prince of Wales*; but they are now not a little mortified at the Paſquils put forth in *England* and *Holland* to render his Birth ſuſpected and the whole to be only a piece of Court Legerdemain to carry on the Catholick Cauſe; As for the later, the deſigns carry'd on againſt the King and his Adherents as they are now no Secret to the World, ſo 'tis no wonder ſuch Pamphlets are connived at; Then for *England*, its an Argument the Reigns of Government are of late much ſlackened, and that the Regal Authority is much in the Wain, when the King and the Courts Honour, is touched in ſo ſenſible a Part, and yet that no Redreſs can be made thereof, nor efficacious Remedy applied thereto; but I muſt tell you, my Lord, That tho' this Court has not ſo much reaſon to be concerned as that in *England* in this Point, yet ſuch things dare not be much more than whiſpered here, becauſe that upon the firſt broching of his being a ſuppoſititious Prince, there has been a very ſtrict Charge given that none durſt preſume to ſpeak of him otherwiſe than of a real Prince, neither dare the Cour-

tiers even in private ſo much as emancipate themſelves to ſpeak otherwiſe, leſt they ſhould thereby, beſides tranſgreſſing the preſent Orders, give alſo a Jealouſie to old *Lewis* himſelf, that they deſigned obliquely to revive the old Diſputes formerly raiſed about his own Legitimacy; but this I have heard them privately ſay; That could they have gotten away one of our Princeſſes (as I have formerly mentioned to your Lordſhip) to be married here, and had had thereby another *French* Heir to put in, they believed the *Prince of Wales* would not be long-lived; But theſe things, my Lord, are tickliſh things to meddle with at ſuch a Juncture of Time. I pray God to keep your Lordſhip from all Harm, and to increaſe the Honours of your Family, and that I ſhall ever do, whilſt

My Lord,

Paris, Sept. 12. 1688. *S. N.*

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XLI.

Of the Prince of Conde's *Feaſting of Monſieur the* Dauphine.

My Lord,

THat the *Dauphine* commands the King's Armies upon the *Rhine*, I do not queſtion but your Lordſhip has heard ere now, about which Affair this Court ſeem at this Juncture to be wholly taken up, ſo as that I have nothing of moment worth ſending to your Honor: But before Monſegnior's Departure, the Prince of *Conde* has been pleaſed to regale him and all his Retinue, and that in a moſt ſumptuous and magnificent manner at *Chantilli*; where ſeveral Ladies had alſo a Share in that Divertiſement; the Prince, upon this occaſion, diſtinguiſhed himſelf in a very extraordinary manner; he preſented himſelf before the *Dauphine* a great way in the Foreſt, where there were Illuminations, and received him in the Habit of the old Heathen God *Pan*, accompanied with a curious Train, all in Diſguiſe like himſelf; ſome like Shepherds and Shepherdeſſes, others repreſenting Satyrs, leaping and dancing at the Sound of Hautboys, Bag-pipes and ſuch like Muſical Inſtruments; the *Dauphine* being in this manner conducted to the Houſe, which cannot be ſaid to be ſuperb and ſtately, unleſs it be for the Gardens and Water-works about it, he was himſelf feaſted with a magnificent Supper

and

and ſeveral other Tables were ſet for his Court; where he continued for Five Days, and was regaled in the ſame Plenty as at firſt, and from thence returned highly ſatisfied to *Verſailles*; I muſt confeſs, my Lord, I could not forbear giving you this ſhort account of the Entertainment, tho' it be ridiculous enough, eſpecially in the Antick *Preludium* to it; but I know your Lordſhip has Goodneſs enough not only to pardon me, but to take in good part whatever comes from,

My Lord,

Paris, Sept. 16. 1688. *N.S.*

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient Servant.

LETTER XLII.

Of King James *ordering Maſs to be ſaid on Board his Fleet, and of his going on Board himſelf to engage the Officers to turn* Roman *Catholicks.*

My Lord,

WHatſoever this Court is a doing, in reference to the *Engliſh* Affairs at this Time, there is little or no Appearance of it; but they ſeem to be much concerned at the Diſappointment our King has met with, in not prevailing with the Officers of his Navy Royal to become Catholicks;

Catholicks; for me to make a Relation of that Tranſaction to your Lordſhip, I fear may be but *Crambe bis Cocta*, but your Honour being now remote from the Court at your Country Habitation, and that I believe we have here a truer account of that Affair tranſmitted to us by the Agents of this Court, perhaps your Lordſhip will not think your Time ill ſpent in peruſing of it. Its ſeems the Commiſſioners which the King has ſent to the ſeveral Counties of the Kingdom to diſpoſe Men's Minds to a Willingneſs to take off the Penal Laws and Teſt, having generally found a grand Averſion in the People to that Matter, the King was ſo incenſed at the Report they made of it, and the invincible Stubbornneſs of the Nation, that he convened his Cabinet Council, and with them reſolved to caſhier all ſuch out of his Service as would not fall in with his Deſigns; But that all things might be opportunely executed, it was agreed he ſhould make himſelf ſure firſt of his Fleet and his Army, without whoſe Aſſiſtance they ſaw it was in vain to effect ſo ſudden a Change at once; wherefore he gave Orders that Maſs ſhould be ſaid on Board his Ships; but there was ſuch Oppoſition made thereunto both by the Officers and Seamen, that the Prieſts, who went thither for that end, were forced to hide themſelves for fear of being thrown over Board, which they had been like to have undergone, had it not been that the Principal Officers, who maintained ſtill the Reſpect that was due to the King's Commands, had done their utmoſt to hinder it. But when the matter came to be repreſented to the King, his Fury was raiſed to an high degree, tho' he had for the Time the Artifice to diſſemble his Reſent-

ſentment; wherefore he reſolved to try whether his Royal Preſence might not operate more than his Orders, and therefore he went on Board the Fleet himſelf, and having commanded all the Officers to bring him their Commiſſions, he there asked them, Whether they were not reſolved to change their Religion and imbrace his, who had beſtowed their Offices upon them, in Expectation that they would do whatever he commanded them? They were ſurprized at the Complement, and expected no ſuch thing, nevertheleſs, being reſolved not to be frightened either with Menaces nor be gained by Flatteries, they generally anſwered; That how devoted ſoever they were to his Majeſty's Service and their own Fortune, yet they could not be enduced to any thing againſt their Conſciences. To which the King replyed, That what he required of them could by no means be Prejudicial to them, whatever their Miniſters might tell them to the contrary; that there was more of Opinion than Reaſon in the Religion which they profeſſed; that they ſhould take the Pains to reflect duely thereon, for which yet he would grant them but the Space of 48 Hours.

But tho' moſt of them did believe from Words ſo poſitive by the King, they ſhould certainly be caſheered, yet they reſolved to ſplit upon that Rock rather than alter, whatever came of it. The King, in the mean Time, who had truſty Spies in all the Ships, having learnt their Reſolutions, for all his eagerneſs in the matter, did not think it adviſable to puſh on Things over far at that time; wherefore he ordered they ſhould be told, when he ſent them back their Commiſſions, That the 48 Hours

Hours which he had alloted, being not ſufficient for the determining of an Affair of ſo great Importance, he was pleaſed to allow them ſome further time to think of it, but that they would pleaſe him to conform themſelves to his Will on that occaſion; but in the mean time tho' the Politicks of this Court have been much uſed in *England*, yet herein they have been laid aſide, and there is an eſſential Difference between the one and the other, for in the Choice which our King makes of Officers, he had rather they ſhould have *Service* than *Profit*; whereas in *France* they will have both the one and the other if they can, and for want of which, *Profit* is always preferred before *Service*. I'll not cenſure ſuch an Attempt, but I am aſhamed we ſhould be laughed at both here and in other Countries for our Politicks, and your Lordſhip knows as well as any Man living, that when wiſe and experienced Stateſmen have ſate at the Helm, they never would ſuffer the Regal Authority to be put upon ſuch an Hazard, well knowing the leaſt Reſiſtance made thereunto is a Triumph to the People, but *ſperamus meliora*, I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Sept. 25. 1688. *N. S.*

Your Lordſhips to Command.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

Of the Count d'Avaux *acquainting the* French *King with the Prince of* Orange's *Preparations againſt* England.

My Lord,

THe Embaſſador of this Court Monſieur the Count *d'Avaux* at the *Hague*, hath tranſmitted a poſitive account hither of the great Preparations made in *Holland* for ſome grand Expedition, eſpecially by Sea; intimating that the Prince of *Orange* ſeems to have other Deſigns in his View than thoſe of a vigilant Statholder, for the maintaining the *Dutch* Fleets and Armies in a good Poſture, now other neighbour Nations are in Arms. You know, my Lord, Mr. *Skelton* is now Envoy in this Country from *England*, as he was ſome time ago in *Holland*; who while he was there, whether really or maliciouſly I will not determine, was pleaſed to tranſmit an account to the King of the Prince's holding Correſpondence and carrying on ſome Intrigues with his Subjects to his Prejudice; he had ſome Relations in the Princeſſes Family, by whoſe means he had an Opportunity to inſpect into ſome Letters, from which he took upon him to pick out as much as gave him to underſtand, that there were ſome Matters agitated underhand that tended to the King's detriment, but as far as I could learn, the King gave little heed to his Informations; But what the Count *d'A-*

vaux

vaux has given his Maſter an account of hath been eſteemed worthy of Conſideration, and added here ſome Reputation to Mr. *Skelton*'s Agency, whatever it may do in *England*; and I am aſſured, my Lord, from ſuch Authority as I dare rely upon, that the *French* King has preſt his Brother of *England*, to give that Heed to it which it deſerves, and to take ſeaſonable Precautions to defend his Dominions from a powerful Invaſion wherewith they are threatened. My Lord, I deſire to know with the next Conveniency whether I may be free to continue my Correſpondence with your Lordſhip, eſpecially if I find Matters of this Nature tranſacted; for I would not for any thing in the World bring your Lordſhip into the leaſt *Præmunire*, but in all things ſtudy to ſerve you with exacteſt Diligence and humbleſt obſervance, which I ſhall always ſtrive to do, who am,

My Lord,

Paris. Octob. 6. 1688. *N. S.*

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER XLIV.

Of the means whereby Mr. Skelton *came to know of the Deſigns in* Holland *againſt King* James, *and of his acquainting the King his Maſter therewith.*

My Lord,

MY laſt imported ſome Intimations to your Lordſhip of Mr. *Skelton* when the King's Envoy at the *Hague*, his diſcovering ſome ſecret Correſpondence negotiated between *England* and *Holland*, as he judged, to his Maſter's diſadvantage; I have alſo noted how the King had been advertiſed of it from this Court, where Mr *Skelton* is now in the ſame Quality as at the *Hague*, and who, I can further aſſure your Lordſhip, has made a further Progreſs to unriddle the Intrigue ſince his Arrival, by the means of one whoſe Name is *Budeus de Verace*, a Proteſtant of *Geneva*; who having been ſome time ſince Captain of the Guards to the Prince of *Orange*, and having had the Misfortune to kill a Man in a Duel, was caſheered by him; Mr. *Skelton* being then at the *Hague*, and acquainted with the ſaid *Verace*, found a way to reconcile him to his Maſter by the Recommendation of my Lord *Clarendon*, who having brought up his Son, my Lord *Cornbury*,

at

at *Geneva*, was under great Obligations to *Verace* for the good Offices he had done him, and care taken of him; this *Geneveſe* being thus re-eſtabliſhed in the Favour of the Prince, his Maſter, had it ſeems a greater Share of it than before, as he had alſo in the Secrets of Monſieur *B*-------- his Favorite; however it was, it ſhould ſeem by the ſequel, that he was now by his ſecond Introduction to Favour, become quite of Mr. *Skelton*'s Intereſt, who was the Inſtrument to reconcile him; For not long ſince he has taken occaſion to be diſſatisfied with the Service he engaged in, and withdrawn, and being, as was given out, but whether ſo in reality or no, upon his return to his native City of *Geneva*, he took occaſion to write a Letter to Mr. *Skelton*, now in this City, *That the Noiſe about the Armamont in* Holland *was ſo far from being a falſe thing, or otherwiſe to be conceived, that it was a Matter of the higheſt Importance, and did no leſs than concern the Safety of the Crown of his Maſter, the King of* England, *and that it was highly neceſſary he ſhould be made acquainted with a Son-in-Law, whom he knew not.* This he deſired Mr. *Skelton* to communicate to the King with all ſpeed; but he was not willing to make any further Diſcovery of his Secret to any other ſave to the King himſelf in Perſon; if the King were ſo pleaſed as to ſend him Orders by Mr. *Skelton* to come and attend upon him. Upon the receipt of which Letter from the ſaid *Geneveſe*, Mr. *Skelton* hath writ Five or Six Letters to the King in a very preſſing, lively and urgent manner, but what effect they have had upon him, may be the Subject of another

Letter, and perhaps of my next, if my intelligence fail me not, in the mean time I am and ſhall be,

My Lord,

Paris, Aug. 14. 1688. N. S.

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble and devoted Servant.

LETTER XLV.

Of the Slights uſed to make King James *negligent to provide againſt the Invaſion from* Holland.

My Lord,

I Do not find Mr. *Skelton*'s Inſtances have had any great Effects upon the King towards quickening his Pace to ward off the Blow that ſeems to be preparing to be given him; And I have ſomething more than a Suſpicion, That it is the Deſire of this Court, the Kingdom ſhould be invaded, and that the Agents of it have been extraordinary buſy to countermine whatever Advices have been given the King for taking a timely Precaution to defend himſelf, ſo that there is, my Lord, in this Caſe a Wheel within

in a Wheel, and whatever open Profeſſions of Kindneſs is ſhewed him from hence by a timous Premonition of his Danger, there is as great Care ſeriouſly to thwart all by contrary Counſels; And among other things, it has been eagerly urged to him, That the Prince of *Orange* continues to carry himſelf towards him with ſuch a Conduct, as could not leave the leaſt room to entertain any Suſpicion of him, and could it be thought that a Prince who had ſhewed his Devoirs to him, ſo far as to make his Complements as other Princes had done upon the Birth of his Son, the *Prince of Wales*, and cauſed the Name of his new Brother-in-Law to be added to thoſe of the Princes of the Family, for whom they prayed in his Chappel, ſhould be unſincere, or have the leaſt Deſign to moleſt him or his Kingdoms by Arms, eſpecially ſince *Van Citters*, the States Embaſſador, had particularly aſſured him, That what Preparations were made in *Holland* did not regard *England*, but had given him to underſtand, That *France* had a great deal more Reaſon to be alarmed than he! But after all, whatever were intended by ſuch Preparations, which they were well aſſured were much greater in Fame than in Reality; his Majeſty's Affairs were in ſo good a Poſture that he had no Reaſon to fear any Enterprizes whatſoever; That he had a Land-Army, a Fleet and ſuch good Magazines as were ſufficient to render the Efforts of almoſt all the complicated Powers of *Europe* ineffectual, tho' ſuch a Conjunction was as little to be expected as that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty would abandon him; who, if he ſaw occaſion, as there was now but little likelihood, would no fail to ſupport him with all the Power

of *France* both by Sea, Land *&c.* I will not be further Troubleſome to your Lordſhip, but remain,

My Lord,

Paris, Aug. 8. 1688. *Your humble Servant.*

LETTER XLVI.

My Lord S——— *charged by ſome of the* French *Faction with Infidelity to his Maſter King* James.

My Lord,

IF your Lordſhip ſhould ask me, What the real Deſigns of this Court are in reference to *England*, in ſuch a conjuncture; they ſeem to have other Sentiments now of the Invaſion than they had a few days ago, when they were ſecretly promoting the ſame Might and Main, as I have intimated not long ſince to your Lordſhip, with a View to engage us in a Civil War, and thereby bring the King under a Neceſſity of calling in ſuch a *French* Power to his Aſſiſtance as he ſhould never be able to force out again; But now they ſeem to be quite againſt it, upon the oppoſition made by a great Miniſter of State to their Offer both of Men and Ships upon this occaſion, of whom they talk ſtrange things here, and ſay, that in regard to the King, however he has inſinuated and winded himſelf into

into his Favour more than any they could recommend or propoſe, he muſt be an Enemy reconciled only in a way of Policy and Neceſſity, that he had in former Parliaments puſhed on the Bill for his Excluſion with greater eagerneſs and warmth than any other; That he had never attempted to recover his Favour, but when he had a Proſpect to injure him thereby; that he is a Man intent to follow the prevailing Side, but that he had always, in caſe of any Change, a ſafe Retreat to the other ſide, that whilſt he adhered to the Factions in Parliament, againſt the Royal Family and Intereſt, he had ſtrict Correſpondence with one of King *Charles*'s L---------, who found a way to reconcile him to his Majeſty, and by his Mediation to the Duke of *York*; That being now come to be Prime Miniſter of State to the King, and almoſt the only one he had ſince his Elevation to his Brother's Throne, he had ſerved him with Zeal, while there was a Proſpect of Proſperity to attend him, but that he hath now no ſooner perceived that there is a Party formed againſt him, but that he hath ſhewed himſelf ready to enter into a Correſpondence with his Enemies, againſt him; That the Counteſs of *S*---- writing to the Princeſs of *Orange*, That their Unkle *H. S.* a Man deeply engaged in that Intereſt, was gone into *Holland* to attend the Prince, was no ſmall Proof of her Husband's being engaged in the ſame Intereſts; That there could be no other Conſtruction made of the Violence done to the King his Maſter, by his engaging of him, notwithſtanding all his Averſion to it, to advance Father *Petre* againſt his own Inclination, maugre the Oppoſition made by the Queen to it, and in ſpite of the moſt eſſential

Laws of the Order he was of, to be one of his Privy Council; That the King thereby, in ſatisfying of him, did on that occaſion loſe that Right which one ſhould think he had to diſpoſe of his own Subjects; That nothing elſe could be inferred from this Lord's Procedure and Carriage in the imbroiled Affair of the Biſhops, which he brought on into the Council, and which he yet favoured under-hand; That it cannot otherwiſe chuſe but that the Contempt which this Miniſter has affected of all the Informations given the King his Maſter of the Deſigns of the Prince of *Orange* his Son-in-Law and of the *Dutch* againſt him, whereby he has in a great meaſure diverted him from uſing the means neceſſary to reſiſt any Attempts made upon him, or impreſſions on his Dominions, muſt proceed from an ill Principle and Diſſatisfaction to his Intereſts. I hope your Lordſhip will not take this Freedom ill at my Hands, which is nothing elſe but the Senſe of this Court upon the preſent Occaſion, and with which I ſhall now conclude, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Oct. 28. 1688.

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER XLVII.

My Lord S —— *excuſed by others of the* French *Faction, as to his Conduct in reſpect to the Prince of* Orange*'s Deſign againg King* James *and his Adherents.*

My Lord,

THe Cenſure of this Court upon the late Conduct of a noble Peer and Prime Miniſter in *England*, as mentioned in my laſt to your Lordſhip, is not ſo univerſal, but that there are diverſe others who have entertained a quite contrary Opinion of him, and ſay, That it is far enough from being an infallible Rule, that a reconciled Enemy can never become a ſincere Friend; That it is poſſible a Man may reſerve unto himſelf a place of Refuge and Retreat among a contrary Party, and yet be far enough from falling in with its Intereſts; That the Suſpicions of him are without any manifeſt Ground, ſince there is not the leaſt Appearance that he hath perſonally linked himſelf with his Maſter's Enemies, or held any Correſpondence with them that tends to the betraying of him; That what his Lady had done with the Princeſs of *Orange*, tho' it might be lyable to Suſpicions in ſuch a Conjuncture, is no ſufficient Proof or Reaſon that the ſame Crime ſhould be attributed to the Earl her Husband; That Col. *S*—— tho' his near Relation, might yet deceive him, and make him believe that his Paſſage into *Hol-*

land, was to no other end than for the Benefit of his Health, and a Journey to drink the Waters of the *Spaw*; That to ſay he turned *Roman* Catholick that he might the better ſerve the Proteſtant Intereſt, was ſo ridiculous in it ſelf as to need no Confutation; That as for the Buſineſs of Father *Petre*, the Earl did nothing but what every wiſe Stateſman would have done, *viz.* to ſeek out one on whom might be diſcharged the Envy of ſuch things as ſhould diſpleaſe the People in the Court-Conduct, and ſo eſcape it himſelf; That as for any Enterpriſe by the Prince of *Orange* and the *Hollanders* againſt ſo potent a King as his Maſter, who was incompaſſed with ſo great an Army, it might appear to be ſo extraordinary and ſtrange a thing to him, that he might believe it his Duty to neglect ſuch Advices as things unlikely, and not far from ridiculous; And that now at length he finds himſelf obliged to believe them to be real, thoſe ſame Forces which the King his Maſter has on foot, might make him opinionative to reject the Succours offered him from hence, which he looks upon to be as well dangerous as unneceſſary, but which if the Cenſures is moſt agreeable to Truth, Ile leave to your Lordſhip's Determination, and remain,

My Lord,

Paris, Oct. 31. *Your very obliged Servant.*

LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

Arguments uſed by the French *Agents to gain King* James's *Conſent to receive* French *Succours into* England, *and Anſwer'd by my Lord* S — .

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip cannot but know of the Buſineſs of Cardinal *Furſtenburg* about the Electorate of *Cologn*, and how he is ſupported by this King, whoſe Arms are advanc'd that way: It may be you have ſeen Monſieur *Bonrepos* alſo at *London*, whoſe Inſtructions were to offer to the King, in his Maſter's Name; That however his Forces are already advanced towards the *Upper Rhine*, and ready to enter upon Action, yet finding the danger His Majeſty was like to be in from *Holland*, he was willing to prefer his Intereſts who was his Friend, before his own; And that if he found the King demur upon the matter, he was to tell him, That His Majeſty ought to conſider the thing, not as it was in itſelf, but in the preſent circumſtances of it; That it might be juſtly feared his work was not to oppoſe only the Armies of others, but that he ſhould be well aſſured that thoſe very Armies with which he deſign'd to reſiſt his Enemies, did not hold Intelligence with them, and concurr againſt him in the ſame Deſigns; That the chief Officers that commanded his Army

my were faithful to him to such a degree, as to be Proof against being corrupted, which could not be said of the other parts of the State, who were wall known to be corrupted, which his Army, if they did not already, must shortly know; from whence he was to infer, that if the same Corruption should unfortunately happen to creep into the Army, as well as elsewhere, the King, in refusing forrign Succours (which in conjunction with those who should prove faithful Subjects to him, would make at least a Party) would leave himself expos'd without any defence to all the Forces of his Enemies. My Lord, you cannot imagine how highly dissatisfied this Court is at the rejection of their Aid, and that my Lord S---'s remonstrating to the King, That the introducing a foreign Army into his Dominions that were *Roman-Catholicks*, and especially *Frenchmen*, would wound his Reputation very deep, and quite alienate the Nations Affections from him, and be a confession of all the Rumors which had been scatter'd abroad of a private League made between him and *France*, for oppressing both the Liberty and Religion of his Country, And besides, the King had Forces enough of his own, and to spare, for the resisting of all the Efforts of *Holland*; That his Fleet alone was able to stop them, and that let it be as it would, his Land-Army could not fail of being Conquerors over them, being both much more numerous, and withal better disciplin'd; had entirely fixed him in the said Resolution. I do not question but this Court will do the Earl all the Disservice they can, for spoiling so brave an opportunity of their getting footing with their Troops in *England*; however

ever he has ſerved his Country, and deſerves well of it, whatever his Fate may be. I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Nov. 2. 1688. *N. S.* *Yours in all humble Obſervance*

LETTER XLIX.

Of Mr. Skelton's *Negotiations in* France, *with the Reaſons of his being recall'd and committed Priſoner to the Tower of* London.

My Lord,

I Cannot conceive but they are as much in the dark with you about Mr. *Skelton*'s Impriſonment in the *Tower* upon his arrival in *England*, as they are concern'd for it here. I have already given your Lordſhip an account of ſome of his Negotiations both in *Holland* and at this Court, and with your Honour's leave ſhall endeavour a little further to unriddle this Myſtery of his Impriſonment: When all the Arguments of this Court uſed by Monſieur *Bonrepos* to induce the King to admit of ſome *French* Troops into his Country, under pretence of aſſiſting him againſt the Prince of *Orange*, were obviated by my Lord *S*——'s Remonſtrances and Aſſiduities, you cannot conceive the concernedneſs that appeared here at the grand Diſappointment: Mr. *Skelton* was almoſt oppreſs'd with En-

Enquirers into the reaſon of ſuch a Procedure, (not knowing well then from what Quiver the Arrow was taken that ſhot down the *Goliah* of all their Hopes of once neſtling in *England*) who examin'd, interrogated him, and almoſt laid it to his charge, that their Advice was not follow'd: But having at length found it to be otherwiſe, they reſolved to put him upon another Expedient, mention'd firſt by himſelf, to ſerve his Maſter, as they ſaid, tho' nothing is more certain than that it is their own Intereſt they deſign'd mainly thereby: For one day, after Monſieur *de Croiſſy* had preſt him hard ſtill to ſollicite his Maſter to accept of the Troops and Ships offered him by *France*, and that Mr. *Skelton* anſwer'd, *That it was in vain, he having Orders to meddle no further in that matter, and therefore durſt not move in it.* He alſo added, *That yet he was of Opinion, that if his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty would order his Ambaſſador to acquaint the States-general what ſhare he took in the Affairs of the King his Maſter, and to threaten to attack them, in caſe they undertook any thing againſt him, he did believe that would quickly put a ſtop to the intended Invaſion, and ſpoil the Meaſures the Prince of* Orange *had concerted thereupon, without giving the* Engliſh *occaſion to complain their King had called in Foreigners into their Country: That this would be an effectual means to keep part of the King's Enemies on this ſide the Sea, and they might have leiſure enough to break off the Cabals which the other formed at home againſt him.* This Diſcourſe made Monſieur *de Croiſſy* haſten to acquaint the King with it, who liked it ſo well, that he immediately diſpatched away a Courier to Monſieur the Count *d'Avaux* his Ambaſſa-

dor

dor at the *Hague*, with Orders to declare to the *United Provinces*, That they could not attack the King of *England*, who was ſo intimate a Confederate with him, but that he muſt be obliged to ſuccour him with all the Aſſiſtance he could. The States having pauſed a little for an Anſwer to this Memorial, and preſently upon it being encounter'd with another from the Marqueſs *de Albeville*, the *Engliſh* Ambaſſador there; they anſwered the latter, *They were long ſince convinced of the League between the two Kings*; *That they had armed in Imitation of other Princes*, &c. which being interpreted here, that the States were reſolved to go on with the Invaſion; It raiſed the Expectations of this Court, that the tender of their Troops would be ſtill accepted of by the King: But the vigilance and ſagacity of my Lord *S*-- disjointed alſo this Project, and ended in the Recalling and Impriſonment of Mr. *Skelton*, for moving in an Affair for which he had no Orders. And this alſo, my Lord, has ſtopped *Verace* the *Geneveſe*, whom I have formerly mentioned to your Lordſhip, who is come to *Paris*, from proceeding on his Journey for *London*, as ſuppoſing it to no purpoſe to give ſuch Informations as would not be regarded; and he is now, I hear, about returning back to his own Country. I hope things are well with your Lordſhip in theſe times of difficulty; had it been otherwiſe I do ſuppoſe I ſhould have heard it, that I might have ſtopped my Intelligence; and that all may continue to be well with you, is the unfeigned Deſire of,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhips moſt obedient
Servant.

Paris, Nov. 8.
1688. *N. S.*

LET.

LETTER L.

Of the Prince of Orange's *landing in* England, *and Succeſs, with King* James's *Speech to his Chief Officers.*

My Lord,

THo' the *French* Arms this year have had mighty ſucceſs on the *Rhine*, yet the landing of the Prince of *Orange* in *England*, without any oppoſition, and the ſucceſs he has met with ſince his arrival, together with the defection of ſome Horſe to him under my Lord *Cornbury*, (tho' they ſay here but a very ſmall number) has damped all their Rejoycings; And indeed, if we may judge of their Hearts by their Looks, we may ſee plainly that they have given over not only their own Game on that ſide of the Water for loſt, but that they look upon that of the Kings ſo too, almoſt beyond all hopes of recovery; but yet that they may make ſome ſemblance of Zeal ſtill for his Service, their Creatures have adviſed him to call together his chief Officers, and to tell them; That he had given Orders for the calling together of a Free Parliament, as ſoon as a more ſetled time would give him room to hope for ſuch: That he had reſolved to provide for the Security of the Religion, Liberties, and Privileges of his Subjects, as far as they themſelves could deſire or wiſh for; Could there any more be expected from him, he was ready to grant it? but

but desired, if after all this there was any one dissatisfied, that they might declare it: That he was ready to give unto such as thought not fit to tarry with him, Pasports to go to the Prince of *Orange*, and that he would freely pardon them their shameful Treason. This Speech, and the effects it has had, your Lordship may know much better than I; but it is now talked here, that it has met with so little success, that most of those persons whom the King had convened as aforesaid, have formed a close Conspiracy against him, and to cut their way short, resolved to seize his Person; and that my Lord *C*—— being pitched upon to execute the Design, he dexterously engaged the King to go to view the Vanguard of his Army, which was that part of it which was posted neareſt the Enemy; That the King was ready to take Coach and ride thither, when his Nose falling to bleed on a sudden, obliged him to stay for that time, and put off the review till another opportunity; But before that day was over, he had good Information given him, that there was a Design formed to seize him, and that measures were concerted to have him carried away to *Exeter*; and that my Lord *C*—— upon that, with some others, withdrew to the Prince of *Orange*, as did the King to *London*. I would not have troubled your Lordship at this time, but that I know you expect I should give you the Sentiments of this side upon our affairs, and what part they take therein: Which with my humblest Duty to your Honour, is all I have at present to impart to you, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Dec. 4. 1688 *N.* S. *Yours to serve and obey.*

LET-

LETTER LI.

Of the Queen and Prince of Wales's *going over into* France.

My Lord,

THE King's Affairs are looked upon here to be loſt beyond all humane relief, and the Prince of *Orange* is now as much dreaded, as they heretofore made a ſemblance of deſpiſing and neglecting of him; tho, in reality, there were ever ſince I have known this place, ſecret Fears of his great Conſtancy, Policy and Courage hanging upon this Court, and all the Hopes they have now left, and the only Twig to hang by, is his *Petite Highneſs*, who after great difficulties is with his Mother arrived here, and of which ſome of their Attendance give a lamentable relation; That upon my Lord *Dartmouth*'s refuſal to let the young Gentleman croſs the Seas, he was carried back to *London*, whither the King was alſo come from *Salisbury*, who with the Count *de Lauzune*, who preſented himſelf at Court the laſt of the laſt Month, concerted meaſures for the eſcape of the Queen and her Son: Signior *Riva* an *Italian*, and one of the Queens Servants, and Monſieur *de Labadie*, another of the *King*'s, Perſons of approved Fidelity, were intruſted to provide all things neceſſary for their embarking, and for their Journey from *White-*

Hall

Hall to the place where the Ship lay: They ſay, it was not without very great danger of being ſtopped and diſcovered, that the Queen and the Child got out of the Court, at a time when every thing was ſuſpected, and when the Infants crying might have been a means to have broken all the beſt meaſures in the World. They were put into a ſtrange Diſguiſe, and ſo made their eſcape by the way of unfrequented Stairs and Places, croſt the River of *Thames*, and took the Road which leads from *London* to *Graveſend*, where Monſieur *de Labadie* had ſtopped a Veſſel for to tranſport them into *France*; and all the while the Child did not as much as once cry: They were in danger ſeveral times of being ſeized by Sentinels, and a concourſe of People, who ſuſpected all whom they did not know, to be fugitive *Papiſts*, and looked upon their eſcape as a Prey that ran away from them. While they were on the *Thames*, they were encounter'd with Wind, Rain, the fluctuating of the Waves, in the horror of a Night ſo dark, that they could not ſee one another: The Queen on the other ſide of the River waited for a Coach, near the Walls of a Church, which was harneſſed in a neighbouring Inn, being all the while expoſed to the Rain, which continued with great violence; But the Curioſity of a man who came out of the Inn with a Candle in his hand, put her into a great fear, leſt ſhe ſhould be known, for the perſon advanced directly towards the place where ſhe ſtood, when Seignior *Riva*, who perceived him, immediately followed and encountered him briskly, ſo as that both of them fell into the Dirt, by which Diverſion the Queen eſcaped undiſcovered, and

the man thinking that what befel him was the effect of Chance, they both began to excuſe the matter, which proceeded no further. When the Coach was got ready they rid away with all ſpeed, and came to the Ship, where *Labady*'s Wife (who had ſome Acquaintance with the Captain) appearing firſt, did ſo amuſe him with a Story, *That the Queen was an* Italian *Lady, returning with her Family into her own Country*, till the Queen was got ſafe on Board, and lodged in the Cabin appointed for her, together with the Nurſe that carried the Infant; The Marqueſs and Marchioneſs of *Powis*, the Counts of *Dalmon* and *Montecuculli* with other Perſons of her Retinue, did imbark at the ſame time with the *Iriſh* Captains, ſent on purpoſe by the King to have an Eye over the Commander of the Veſſel, in caſe they found him any way refractory and deficient in his Duty; But of this, they ſay, there happened to be no occaſion, for the Ship being under ſail, they had an eaſie Paſſage, and landed at *Calais* on the 11th of this inſtant: She deſigned to have ſtaid there for the King her Husband, who, according as they had concerted Matters between them before their parting, was to follow her the next Day, but not finding the King come, ſhe went for *Bologn*, where two Friers, and an an Officer that have made their Eſcape out of *England*, informed her of the Misfortune which befel her Husband at *Feverſham*, and which your Lordſhip can tell much better than I. From *Bologn* ſhe journey'd to *Montrevil* and from thence to *S. Germains*; where ſhe and her Son have had honourable Reception of the King, and where King *James* is hourly expected. This, my Lord, is the Relation they give here of their Flight

Flight, and dangerous Eſcape, which they count little leſs than a Miracle, and a preſerving both of the Queen and her Son to a much better Fortune. But tho' this Court put a very good Meen upon the Matter, and talk high, yet it is at the ſame time very diſcernable that they are not a little mortified at the ſtrangeneſs of the Prince of *Orange*'s Succeſs, and the ſuddenneſs of the Revolution. Which, with my humble Reſpects, is all I have to communicate at this Time, who am,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 2. 1689. *N.S.*

Your Lordships moſt devoted Servant.

POST-SCRIPT.

My Lord, juſt as I am a cloſing of this Letter, I am informed the King is alſo arrived at *S. Germains*, and has met with no leſs Honours from King *Lewis* than if he were poſſeſſed of his Dominions and ſubjects Affections, in as ample a degree as ever he has or could be.

My Lord,

I am, &c.

LETTER LII.

Of the Prince of Orange's *Arrival at* London.

My Lord,

THis Place is very barren of News, tho' there is ſomething, I am ſatisfied, a brewing, which will appear in Time, and all that is novel and extraordinary ſeems to have been tranplanted to the *Britiſh Iſles* from whence we hear, That the Prince of *Orange*, who, they ſay, is always intent, and ever was to improve favourable Conjunctures, hath taken Advantage of theſe Movements to make his Entry into *London*, where 'tis conſeſt, but with much Regret, he hath been received with great Demonſtrations of Joy and publick Applauſe (but they ſay it is nothing but what is uſually done to Newcomers) having been felicitated upon the Succeſs of his Enterpriſe, and thanked for the Zeal which he had teſtified for the good of the *Engliſh* Nation. 'Tis alſo reported, That the Nobility have met together, and pray'd him to take the Adminiſtration of the Government upon him, till the Eſtates of the Kingdom can be called together, which is dreaded here by both Courts: I can aſſure your Lordſhip, there

there have been Inſtructions iſſued out from hence already to their Agents at *London* (where they have a great Number, tho' under various Diſguiſes) for to countermine what ever Projects may be on foot for the eſtabliſhing a Settlement in *England*, and of which I ſhall endeavour to tranſmit to your Lorſhip the Particulars. I am,

My Lord,

Paris, Jan. 27. 1689. *S.N.*

Your very humble Servant

LETTER LIII.

Inſtructions given to the French *Emiſſaries, to infuſe into ſome* Engliſh *Peers upon the ſubject-Matter of King* James's *Deſerting of the Crown, in Favour of his Intereſt.*

My Lord,

ITs not doubted here but that there will be ſtrong Efforts made for the Advancing of the Prince of *Orange* to the *Engliſh* Throne, and by the Returns made of Members to ſerve upon the preſent Occaſion in the Lower Houſe, it is concluded that their Procedures will be much in favour of his Intereſt, and conſequently to the Diſadvantage of this Court, and therefore they have taken care to give them a Bone to pick, tho' I know not well what it is for the preſent; But of the Houſe of Lords they have entertained a more favourable Opinion; but foreſeeing that whatever is agitated among the Commons is alſo likely to creep into a Debate among the Lords, and that the King's Religion, his Evil Adminiſtration, his Retreat out of the Kingdom, and the Compact between him and his People may be called in queſtion; They have by way of Precaution given Inſtructions to their Emiſſaries ſlily to infuſe into any

any ſuch Peers as they judge ſuſceptible of ſuch Inſinuations (but I cannot think your Lordſhip of that Number) That it was true, the King's Religion had been a very main Cauſe to bring thoſe Misfortunes upon himſelf and the Nation which they laboured under, but hereby it could not be thought that ſhould be as much as once debated for a ſufficient Ground to exclude him from his Throne; That this would appear ſtrange in the Sight of all Nations, that a Popiſh Prince was incapable to ſway a Scepter, when even in *England* it ſelf there had been no leſs than Forty *Roman* Catholick Kings, who had governed *England*, from King *Egbert* to Queen *Elizabeth*; That it was but the other Day that all the Kingdom had by Addreſſes on purpoſe diſavowed that Maxime; That the two Univerſities had condemned the ſame for an Error, and that the Parliament in One thouſand ſix hundred and eighty five, did believe it to be a thing ſo pernicious and deſtructive to a State, that they were minded to brand with Infamy all thoſe who would have excluded the Duke of *York* from the Succeſſion; That all the Nation having acknowledged this Prince at a Time when he made open Profeſſion of the Popiſh Religion, it would be a ridiculous inconſequence to pretend that that ſame Religion was an Hindrance to his reigning as King of *England*; and that as for any previous Compact that might be alledged by ill-diſpoſed Men to have been between King and People, it was a pernicious chimerical Notion, often condemned as a Gap opened to ſeditious Practices for the imbroiling of the State; That ſurely that Retreat could not be called a *Deſertion* in the King, full of Diſcontent, and finding himſelf abandoned

by his Subjects to the Mercy of a Foreign Nation, eſpecially ſeeing the Royal Character the bore, did but expoſe him to the Inſults of the People, and his Perſon into the Hands of a Prince that impoſed Laws upon him, ſeized him in his own Dominions, and gave him Umbrages that ought to preſage greater Dangers unto him; That the Offers he had again and again made to the Nation, and even to the Prince of *Orange*, who protected it, to treat with them amicably, to leave nothing undone for the redreſſing of their Grievances, could not but be adjudged Reparations ſufficient for thoſe Faults that were imputed to him; That the Letter he had writ, left behind him at *Feverſham*, and ordered to be printed, with ſeveral other Letters which he had actually writ to diAerſe Perſons, aſſerting his Authority and Claim; And that the Proteſtations, which no doubt he would make againſt any Acts of the Aſſembly to meet, if any ſuch ſhould happen in diſfavour of him, which could hardly be credited, and the Meaſures which he had taken, and whereof they heard enough every Day, and would doubtleſs more and more dayly, for the Recovery of his Dominions, were evident Demonſtrations that he had not renounced them; And that if they were deſerted by him, it was becauſe his Perſon was in no Security there, and not the Throne, which he ſtill looked upon as a Property appertaining to him alone; That he was not the firſt and only King, even of *England*, that had made this Step; That *Ethelrede* in the Time of the *Saxon Kings* retired into *Normandy*, and that among the Royal Stem of the *Plantagenets*, *Edward* IV. paſt over into *Flanders* without King *Henry* VI. his Competitor his believing that he had

had thereby acquired a new Title to the Crown; That as to the preſent conjuncture the King found himſelf in, the Condition of Kings would be very hard, if they of all Mankind were the only Perſons who were not allowed the Favour to ſhun a Danger they were expoſed to, and which could not be avoided but by fleeing from it, and that ſurely it was a Man's Prudence when he ſaw his Houſe on Fire beyond a poſſibility of extinguiſhing it, to ſave his own Life, and attend an Opportunity to rebuild it again, ſince he could not ſave it from burning. What Succeſſes, my Lord, theſe Remonſtrances have met with, or may ſtill, it may be your Lordſhip can tell; But I can tell you, if this fails, there is another Mine to ſpring, whereon they rely very much, and on which they intend to work with utmoſt Diligence; but I pray God to keep my poor Country from falling again into their Snares, from which it now is in ſo fair a way of being delivered, and to inſpire your Lordſhip and other worthy Patriots at ſuch a juncture with a proportionable Zeal for the good of it, and ſo I reſt.

My Lord,

Paris, Feb. 5. 1689. S. N.

Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER LIV.

Upon the Throne's being declared Vacant *by the Convention, the* French *Emiſſaries were to endeavour to embroil the Nation about the Form of Government to be eſtabliſhed among them.*

My Lord,

I Know not how it is in *England*, but Men's Wits here have plaid ſo liberally upon the Word *Abdication*, ſtarted in your Convention, and ſuch Railery and Buttle ma le about it as can ſcarce be believed by any without he were an Eye and Ear-Witneſs of it; and believing at the ſame time they would never make any thing of it but that the Precautions they had taken to manage the Upper Houſe, would fully anſwer their Expectations, the Grimaces they have ſince made upon their receiving certain Advices, *That the Throne has been declared Vacant*, are not ſo ſurprizing, for one is a natural Conſequence of the other, as they are ſudden and ridiculous; Tho' they are not yet quite out of Hopes, for their Emiſſaries have received previous Inſtructions, *That in caſe their Remonſtrances to the Lords*, as mentioned in my laſt, *would not do, that then they ſhould chiefly turn their Batteries upon the Members of the Lower Houſe*,

Houſe, by infuſing Notions into ſome of one ſort of Government as the beſt, To others another, to gain Time thereby; and concert mutual Jealouſies between the Parties, which would not fail of making the Prince weary of ſuch endleſs Wranglings, and ſo make him either aſſume the Government by vertue of his own Power and Authority; Or elſe ſeeing no Hopes of any Settlement, and that the Factions were ſo ſtrong as not to be quelled, and ſo obſtinate as not to be reconciled, to retire home, and leave them in a far worſe State than he found them. The Republican Party, which they knew to be but very few, They are to ply warmly with the *Fitneſs of the Opportunity to ſet up a Free State once again, that perhaps the Prince of* Orange *would be better pleaſed with it, provided he were made Stadtholder as he was in* Holland, *and greatly promote it, if he ſaw once a tendency in any conſiderable Members that way; that a Regency which was like to be propoſed upon the declaring the Throne* Vacant, *could not be thought to be ſo agreeable to him; who knew well enough the publick Evils that were annext to ſuch an Office, but that if it ſhould ſo happen that the major part ſhould carry it, that the Regal Dignity and Office ſhould be continued and that in the Perſon of another than King* James, *and that by natural Conſequence it muſt be offered to the Prince of* Orange, *yet ſurely they could not be ſo far wanting to themſelves as not to ſtickle that he might receive the Crown under ſuch a Title as might come as nigh that Form of a Republick as might be, and lay a ſure Foundation for the Introduction of it, when things were*

riper,

riper, at another Turn of Government, which under ſuch Circumſtances could not chuſe but quickly happen; And what could they better do, than to get the Kingdom declared Elective, *which as it was a Debaſing and Diminution of Hereditary Succeſſion, ſo it was a great Step towards the erecting of a Popular Government once more, which the Treachery and Hypocriſie of one at the Head of it had deſtroyed in the preſent Age, when it was in a fair way of giving Laws to all the Neighbour Nations round it.* They have been further inſtructed, *That if they found any diſpoſed to favour the Title of* Conqueſt, *ſo far to promote it as might in ſome Meaſure give Check to the other Factions, but by no means to overballance them.* But that theſe Practices may have as little Succeſs as thoſe mentioned in my laſt to your Lordſhip, is the earneſt Deſire and Hope of,

My Lord,

Paris, Feb. 15. 1689. *N.S.*

Yours Lordſhip's moſt humble Servant.

LET-

LETTER LV.

Of the Prince and Princeſs of Orange *being Proclaimed King and Queen of* England, *&c.*

My Lord,

THis Court is Thunder-ſtruck that all their Counter-Plots and Deſigns have been rendred ſo ineffectual in *England*, where heretofore they ſeldom uſed to miſs their Mark, and that they come to be aſſured by repeated Advices that the Prince and Princeſs of *Orange* are declared *King* and *Queen* of *England*, &c. and what adds greatly to the Mortification is, the Circumſtances of it, both as to the Title whereby they are declared and the People of *England*'s previous aſſerting their Native Rights and Legal Privileges ſo vigorouſly, and thereby caſting ſuch an *Odium* upon the late Government, as can hardly be obliterated and forgotten in this Age; And now they begin to think what may not they fear from a Prince who has been ſo much injured by them, had always the Honeſty, as well as Courage and Conſtancy to oppoſe their Incroachments; and now by this mighty Acceſſion of Power has means enough to put a Check

Check upon their exorbitant Greatneſs, and perhaps force them to diſgorge what they have been devouring of their Neighbours for many Years paſt; which I heartily long to ſee effected, and wiſh King *William* and his Royal Conſort may be happier than *Auguſtus* and better than *Trajanus*, and that your Lordſhip may flouriſh under them, whom I ſhall ever loue and Honour, tho' I cannot at preſent ſerve, becauſe of the Difficulty of Safe Conveyance to your Hands; and therefore till I can ſettle a ſure and ſafe Correſpondence, upon this Change of Government, with your Lordſhip, I remain,

My Lord,

Paris, Feb. 27. 1689. *N. S.*

Your very humble Servant.

F I N I S.